Wolverhampton
# CHRONICLE

Thursday, December 28, 2017 | Read by more than 65,000 people | Price when sold 70p

## Millions paid out for negligence claims in just one year

# NHS TRUST £12m BLUNDERS BILL

Report by Alex Ross

**THE NHS Trust which runs Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital tops the table in the Black Country for payouts and associated costs due to medical blunders in just one year.**

A total of £11.9m – of which £7.8m were compensation payments – was paid out on behalf of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust for clinical negligence claims in 2016/17.

The trust has seen its bill rise significantly from £3m in 2015/16.

The remainder of the money paid out on behalf of the trust for negligence claims went to defence and claimant costs. Some of the payouts go back to cases many years ago.

Elsewhere in the Black Country, money paid out by NHS Resolution, which replaced the NHS Litigation Authority this year, fluctuated from last year.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, had a total bill of £9.6m paid over 2016/17, up from £5.6m the year before.

### Healthcare

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, however, saw its bill drop from £14.4m in 2015/16 to £8.7m in 2016/17.

The trust runs City Hospital in Birmingham and Sandwell General Hospital.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, which runs Walsall Manor, had a bill paid of £6.7m in 2016/17, down from £15.3m the year before.

At Dudley & Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust, just £20,740 was paid out in negligence claims in 2016/17, down from £109,193.

And at the Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, £84,122 was paid out, down from £116,384.

The figures have been analysed by the Lib Dems. Rob Quarmby, a party campaigner from Wolverhampton, said: "The costs of clinical negligence claims are spiralling at a time of immense financial pressures on our National Health Service, taking scarce resources away from frontline services and patients.

"Every pound that is spent on lawyers a pound less we can spend on the NHS."

## READY, TEDDY, GO – AND HERE'S OUR TOP CAT

Chilling – Teddy just loves to lie in the dovecote

WELL here he is – by popular request – our Animal Crackers winner Teddy.

Over the weeks of our competition for the best pet photograph we had more than 500 entries and in the reader vote Teddy came out well on top.

Here he is in a dovecote and his owner Vicky Sterrett said this is just one of the places he likes to squeeze into. Vicky, from Bloxwich, said Teddy found her four years ago, arriving on her doorstep as a stray.

She found that he wasn't microchipped and was about four years old. Vicky fell in love instantly and decided to keep him.

### Cheeky

He has a cheeky personality and is a very busy boy spending most of his time in the garden, in the greenhouse and of course the dovecote. This was specially made by a carpenter at a local day care centre for adults with learning disabilities.

It was originally put there for the birds and squirrels but not long after having it Teddy started using it as his hiding place.

In the late summer of 2015 he arrived home dragging his right back leg. After an emergency dash to the vets Vicky was told that he had been hit by a car and had a dislocated right hip which required surgery to repair the damage.

After excellent service from the vet and several weeks of TLC Teddy was back on his feet and was awarded Pet of the Month at the vets with his picture adorning the surgery wall.

"We have always thought he was a superstar and winning this competition has proved that other people think so as well," said Vicky.

"After speaking to Teddy we have decided to donate the £100 prize money to Walsall & Wolverhampton Cats Protection for all the amazing work they do," Vicky added.

## Heath Town homes plan is approved

PLANS have been approved by Wolverhampton Council to build up to 380 homes in Heath Town. Demolition has already begun along the Chervil Rise area and is due to end by the middle of 2018.

The homes will be for both sale and rent and include new council homes. They will be a mixture of one and two bedroom apartments, and two bedroom bungalows, as well as two, three and four bedroom houses. All will have their own car parking.

The homes will be across several sites as part of the revised 'Heath Town Masterplan.' Phase one of the enabling works saw the demolition of walkways and garages in the Hobgate Road area of the estate.

### Precinct

Other works included disconnecting and re-routing the district heating pipework and the refurbishment of the ground and lower ground floors of Ling House to provide new office, meeting and activity space for the Hope Family Centre.

The council will make changes to the old Long Ley School site, Chervil Rise shopping precinct and maisonettes and the adventure playground on Hobgate Road.

The Qualcast Road, Alma Street, Wyrley Street areas and the Former Duke of York site on Wednesfield Road have also been chosen for development.

COUP

## Bring on the Games and don't forget us

AS Birmingham was named the host city for the 2022 Commonwealth Games demands continued for the Black Country and Staffordshire to reap the benefits.

After months of uncertainty the Second City finally has been given the green light to host the Games in a huge coup for the West Midlands. Attention now turns to what extent the Black Country and Staffordshire will be involved.

● Boost for economy – Page 17

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# Rare novels book in for £20k plus

Star book at sale

A COLLECTION of rare novels by HG Wells has sold for more than £20,000 at a Black Country auction house – nearly four times its valued price.

The 19 first-edition novels by the science fiction writer totalled £20,240 – with the star of the sale a 1908 first edition of Wells' 'The War in the Air' which sold for £7,500.

The books were sold at Cuttlestones' specialist collectors' sale at Wolverhampton Auction Rooms, with a number of individual tomes selling for several thousands of pounds.

A book specialist from the auction house said they had expected the collection to fetch around £5,000.

'The War in the Air', published by George Bell and Sons was in its rare original dust jacket with blue cloth binding, gold lettering, two pages of adverts at back and along with a story removed from 'The Strand' Magazine 1909 by Wells called 'My First Aeroplane (Alauda Magna)'.

The second most sought-after book – fetching £4,500 – was a first edition copy of Wells' 'Kipps the Story of a Simple Soul'. Published by Macmillan and Co in 1905, the first printing edition was presented in its original green cloth binding and what the auction house said appears to be its rare original dust jacket with Macmillan monograph and 'Six shillings' on the spine.

It wasn't just books that performed well at the sale – another interesting lot in the form of a fragment of vestment with a note attached stating 'Part of the vestment of John Wickliffe, Rector of Lutterworth circa 1370' sold for £450.

Relating to the influential dissident within the Roman Catholic priesthood, nothing like this had ever come up at auction making it impossible to value.

# Transport terror team may be based in Brum

**BRITISH Transport Police (BTP) counter-terrorism officers may be based in the West Midlands for the first time from next year.**

The national force that polices railways and light-rail systems is in the process of recruiting 170 firearm and 'behavioural detection' officers to be based in Birmingham or Manchester.

BTP firearms units are currently based in London but have been patrolling trains and stations in the West Midlands this year. A base for the new unit has not yet been confirmed. It will also include support dogs, specialist equipment, vehicles and staff to support the operations.

Assistant chief constable Alun Thomas said: "Although our firearms units are currently based in London, they have been regularly patrolling trains and stations in places such as Manchester and Birmingham since early this year.

### Patrolling

"You may have seen them on trains, or at high profile events like the UEFA Champions League Final in Cardiff.

"But in the current climate, we know how important it is to make sure we have specialist and highly-trained officers in the right place at the right time to keep people safe, which is why we are looking to recruit even more people."

Armed police officers began patrolling trains in the West Midlands in May.

They were called upon in the immediate aftermath of terrorist incidents in London and Manchester, and to events including the UEFA Champions League Final in Cardiff.

ACC Thomas added: "We want the public to be reassured that wherever they go on the rail network, we have highly trained people there to protect them if needed.

"By basing new officers in the Midlands and the North, it allows us to make that an absolute reality. We want to recruit specialist officers, to work in this specialist environment."

## 'Garden shed' tram back on track

The restored Tram 5 is now back in action at the museum

A 100-YEAR-OLD tram once used as a garden shed is back on the tracks at The Black Country Living Museum.

Tram 5 is now operating at the attraction after a £75,000 overhaul.

The single-decker tram was built in 1920 at the works of the Electric Traction Company in Tividale and operated in the Dudley and Stourbridge area.

Thirty-one trams of the same design were constructed at the works and Tram 5 is one of only a handful that survived.

In the 1970s, Tram 5 was discovered in a garden in the Kate's Hill area where it was used as a shed and garden house. It was donated to the museum in 1974 and, after a lengthy restoration, started operating there in 1980. Its latest restoration has seen it back in action.

A statement on the site Facebook page said: "After lots of TLC and hard work our nearly 100-year-old Tram 5 is back in service."

# Poundland's going strong, workers are reassured

POUNDLAND has told its 18,000 workers their business is in strong shape despite the crisis at its South African parent company, Steinhoff.

An accounting scandal at the South African retail giant has seen its chief executive and chairman both quit while it is having to restate its financial figures for the past two years.

There were recent reports that a credit insurance company, which provides the cover for suppliers to ensure they get paid, was cutting back on its cover for Poundland. But the company says it will also be meeting with insurers to reassure them.

### Positive

The Willenhall-based discount chain said it is 'a business firing on all cylinders at the moment'.

A company spokesman said: "While we certainly can't predict the consequences for Steinhoff of the events of the last week, Poundland is a profitable, cash-generating business that's currently trading more strongly than it has in years – positive like-for-like sales and real momentum."

The company, with 900 stores, employs more than 700 in the Black Country at its Willenhall headquarters and its major depot at Bilston.

# Theatre assistant in winning role

A LEARNING assistant at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre has won a Black Country business award.

Libbie Doyle, aged 25, works as a creative learning assistant at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre. She was named Young Person or Apprentice of the Year at a Black Country Chamber of Commerce Award,

Libbie is a former apprentice at City of Wolverhampton College. And as part of her apprenticeship, she combined working for the theatre with studying for a Level 2 diploma in creative arts.

Libbie, from Wombourne, said: "I chose an apprenticeship as I wanted to learn on-the-job rather than in a classroom and I was able to study modules that would be most beneficial to me in my role."

# £15k animals aid

A SAFARI park is celebrating fundraising success in 2017 with more than £15,000 raised for animal charities.

West Midland Safari Park, based in Bewdley, has dished out the money to various animal charities and projects chosen for the vital work.


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**Tuesday at 7pm**
Church of the Good Shepherd, Windmill Lane, Castlecroft
Dawn 07968 779880
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**Tuesday at 7pm**
St Lukes Church Hall, Upper Villiers St, Blakenhall,
Suky 07929 888336
**Wednesday at 5.30pm**
The Friends Meeting House 8b Summerfield Rd (off Bath Road), Chapel Ash, W'ton
Vimla 07880 882427
**Wednesday at 7pm**
Woodfield Sports & Social Club, Woodfield Avenue, Penn
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**Wednesday at 5.30pm & 7.30pm**
Holy Trinity Church, Farrington Rd, Lanesfield
Kerry 07758 160057

**Wednesday at 5 & 7pm**
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**Thursday at 5 & 7pm**
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Bilston Baptist Church, Proud's Lane
Audrey, 07500 057769

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The Royal Wolverhampton School, (Swimming Complex), off Penn Rd WV3 0EG
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# More fines on the way in stricter school rule

PARENTS face harsher punishments for taking their children out of school during term-time, following a landmark legal ruling.

Staffordshire County Council confirmed it has updated its code of conduct with new rules being implemented in the new year.

Now parents face the prospect of being fined if their child turns up late 10 times or more and for any period of unauthorised absence.

The authority stated it had moved away from its previous 'common sense' approach which dealt out penalty notices for anyone taking 10 days off over a period of two half terms and 20 instances of being late for school.

### Discretion

However the council reiterated that whether it takes action is at the discretion of headteachers who have the final say on whether there are any 'exceptional circumstances' around absence.

The changes come after the Supreme Court set a new precedent in April ruling unanimously against Isle of Wight father Jon Platt who faced action for taking his daughter on an unauthorised holiday for seven days in 2015.

The council confirmed it had consulted with headteachers before implementing its own changes.

# Choristers hit note for charity

FESTIVE choristers hit all the right notes as they raised thousands of pounds for people with dementia.

Willenhall Singers, Wolverhampton City Council choir and Wolverhampton Rock Choir united in support of Alzheimer's Society.

Singers raised £2,220 during the Carols at Christmas concert at Wolverhampton's St John's Church.

Councillor Sandra Samuels, Wolverhampton Council's cabinet member for adults, joined the event as guest speaker. She said: "For me, these carols are all about coming together with family and friends.

"It's an opportunity for us to celebrate the diversity of people's lives and I think Alzheimer's Society do a fantastic job."

# Walk – and talk

A WALK and talk group is open to new members. Perton walk and talk club leaves Perton Library, on Severn Drive, every Tuesday at 10.30am. Attendees are advised to arrive 15 minutes early on their first walk.

# Snack Bar closes over council plans

Carol Horne at the Snack Bar

A POPULAR city snack bar which had traded at Wolverhampton market for the last 20 years has closed. Staff said the council had misled them about its future.

The Snack Bar had operated at the market since at least 1997. It was once housed inside the former market building where it had a 'busy and bustling' trade.

It moved to a cabin in School Street and the owners had hoped it would take up a place in the council's plans for its new market on Southside. However, owners say they were 'messed about' by the council so much that they decided to close down. It officially traded for the last time last weekend.

Carol Horne, aged 61 of Oxley, who ran the cabin said: "It's disgusting how we've been treated.

"When we moved out here, trade dropped so much even though we're the only hot food retailer here in these cabins.

"Then the council said it would house us in the new market and we would have a bigger premises with seating like we did before. So we've hung on and hung on. But then this summer we were told that the council didn't have the money to rehouse us in its new development, so we've been left with no choice but to close."

The council's new market is to open in March 2018 and will be located fronting Cleveland Street

Carol added: "I just can't afford to carry on. It's £7,000 to rent this cabin a year, that's without electric and water. Not only that, I have to spend £64 a month on car parking.

"It makes me quite emotional to see how its been left now."

# Two-year pet ban for owner who beat his dog

**A THUG savagely beat a helpless pooch after the animal soaked his foot with water during an evening canalside walk, a court heard.**

Carl Pugh viciously punched American bulldog Jeff five times, causing outrage among thousands of people when CCTV of the brutal onslaught went viral.

But the 35-year-old claimed he hit the animal after being dragged into the Bilston canal and argued footage made 'it look worse than it was'.

American bulldog Jeff

Sentencing at Birmingham Magistrates' Court, Pugh was handed a two-year ban from keeping animals and a 12-week community order, with a curfew.

Magistrates told Pugh, who was also ordered to pay £100 costs and an £85 victim surcharge, it was a 'despicable way to treat a dog'.

RSPCA inspector Vicki Taylor said Jeff was now set to be rehomed. She added: "Pugh claimed that Jeff dragged him into the canal and that he got his foot wet, so he hit him.

### Aggressive

"He said that the CCTV made it look worse than it was, and he said that he loved the dog and would never harm him.

"But the CCTV showed a different story. On the footage, Pugh can clearly be seen hitting Jeff five times and then picking him up and holding him over the canal.

"There is no excuse to treat any animal like this. Jeff is a lovely dog and he hasn't got an aggressive bone in his body."

The cruel canal towpath attack was caught on camera, helping police and the RSPCA track down Pugh. Shocking footage showed him grab the dog before repeatedly punching the innocent animal as it lay on the ground near Wednesbury Oak Loop canal.

Seconds later, the criminal picks the dog up and appears to threaten to dump him into the water before calmly strolling away from the scene.

CCTV footage captures the sickening attack on the dog by owner Pugh

Jeff, who was taken into the care of the RSPCA after the assault, was left visibly shaken after the sickening attack at 9.15pm on June 28.

The recording, taken from a house between Loxdale Sidings and Dudley Street, was captured on a security camera by software manager Steve Childs.

He claimed magistrates should have dealt Pugh a harsher punishment. "I have never seen anything of this severity," he said.

The 41-year-old said he was alerted to the incident while working in his office at home, adding: "I heard a high-pitched bark outside, turned on the live CCTV and saw the end of what happened.

"When I played it back, I could not believe what I was seeing. The dog did nothing to provoke this."

Pugh was convicted in his absence of causing unnecessary suffering to the dog after failing to turn up for his trial in November.

A warrant was issued for the defendant, of Elizabeth Avenue, Bilston, and he was arrested, but later granted bail by magistrates.

He then failed to turn up for sentence at Birmingham Magistrates' Court and a second warrant was issued. Police eventually managed to catch Pugh and he was sentenced on December 15.

RSPCA spokeswoman Rachel Butler said the charity investigated 6,834 cases of animal cruelty across the West Midlands last year – an increase of 3.8 per cent. She added: "This was a shocking case of animal cruelty which led to an innocent dog to suffer unnecessarily. We are pleased that the court has recognised the seriousness of the case."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

# Deal saves 2,500 jobs at Toys R Us

TOYS R Us looks to have staved off the threat of administration after a key creditor agreed to a restructuring plan that will secure around 2,500 jobs.

The beleaguered retailer's proposal for a company voluntary arrangement (CVA) was voted through after it obtained the backing of the Pension Protection Fund (PPF).

However, while the CVA will allow Toys R Us to stay afloat, at least 26 loss-making UK stores will shut as part of the restructure, meaning a loss of up to 800 jobs. The deal saves branches at Birchley Island in Oldbury, at Merry Hill and in Stafford.

# Heart transplant waiting list up

THE number of people on the heart transplant waiting list has gone up by a quarter since last December. Those waiting include 33 children.

The situation has led to NHS Blood and Transplant to call out to the public to join the organ donor register, so that when they die their organs can be used to give life to others.

For most patients on the waiting list, all other medical options have already been exhausted, and a donated organ is their only hope. Since last year 31 people have died while on the waiting list for a heart transplant.

# Bottles deposit urged by MPs

A UK-wide scheme should be brought in to charge a deposit for drinks bottles, paid back when they are returned for recycling, MPs have urged.

All public premises that serve food or drink should be required to provide free drinking water to cut the use of throwaway water bottles.

And companies should be made financially responsible for the plastic packaging they produce, the Environmental Audit Committee has said. And rules for 50 per cent recycled plastic content in plastic bottles to be achieved by 2023, they urged.

# Restoration of fire-hit building given consent

A CRUMBLING building destroyed in a blaze six years ago is to be restored after plans were approved.

The former offices at the corner of Temple Street and Bond Street have been derelict since the fire ripped through the building in April 2011.

Wolverhampton Council has agreed for the three-storey end of terrace building to be converted into accommodation for 12 residents. The renovation will include a new slate roof.


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## Atomic Ned pair at literary event

NED'S Atomic Dustbin frontman Jonn Penney will perform a show in Wolverhampton as part of the city's Literature Festival.

He will be joined at the Slade Room event by fellow band member Rat, Ned's Atomic Dustbin's guitarist.

Entitled Jonn's Atomic Memoir Won't Write Itself, the show will see the pair perform 'newly interpreted acoustic versions' of their songs.

In between musical numbers, audience members are invited to ask questions.

The event will take place on January 27. Tickets are now on sale, priced at £14.30.

## Business festival tickets available

TICKETS to confirmed events being run as part of a new business festival will be available from its website from January 15.

The Black Country Business Festival, run in association with the Black Country Chamber of Commerce and supported by the University of Wolverhampton and Talbots Law, will run between April 23 and May 4.

Around 100 events are expected to take place over the festival fortnight.

For information, to apply to run an event, or for tickets from January 15, visit www.blackcountrybusinessfestival.com or email hello@blackcountrybusinessfestival.com

## Scottish frolics at Burns Night

A BRUM pub is holding a literary-themed Burns Night in January.

The Gunmakers Arms in Bath Street will be offering Scottish short stories and poetry on January 25 from 7pm to 9pm. David Wake will read from Crossing The Bridge, his new political thriller with a Scottish edge, which is being launched on the night.

Free tickets need to be booked in advance from www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/burns-night-tales-tick ets-41367347851

## £10k raised for Burma refugees

ALMOST £10,000 has been raised by a Muslim group in aid of refugees fleeing Burma. Charity Wolverhampton Muslim Forum held a fundraiser at Lea Road United Reform Church for the Rohingya refugees.

The event included food stalls, a bouncy castle and raffles. In attendance was Deputy Mayor Phil Page and Deputy Mayoress Elaine Hadley.

# Staff step up to help Feed a Family call

Ali Mantle, Rob Colbourne, Jo Mellor and Tracy Caizzo from People

A LEADING training provider rallied around to support the Express & Star's Feed a Family This Christmas appeal.

Staff at Performance Through People (PTP) collected food, toiletries and other essentials to help support a number of food banks and other good causes across the region to ensure that families didn't feel the pinch over the festive season.

Our appeal was backed from employees at the company who donated festive items such as scarves and gloves, as well as basics such as canned goods, pasta and long life milk.

Gill Durkin, business development director at PTP, which has five training centres including ones in Walsall, Cannock and Wolverhampton, said they were excited to be continuing their support for local food banks.

"As a business we are keen to support the local communities we serve, and have contact with a number of food banks supporting clients that may have access to some of our courses. Our employees have been fantastic donating presents such as scarves, hats and gloves as well as non-perishables. and toiletries – they think it is a fantastic cause and we are pleased to support it," she added.

# Overwhelmed by your kindness in our appeal

**THE final delivery of your generous donations for the Express & Star's Feed A Family This Christmas appeal has been made, bringing some much-needed festive cheer to the community.**

We have been completely overwhelmed by the kindness shown by people across the Black Country and Staffordshire during the six-week campaign.

In total, we've had in excess of 12,000 items donated by readers, ranging from food and toiletries to children's toys and winter clothing.

We've received mountains of festive food, such as mince pies, chocolates and Christmas puddings, as well as basics including canned goods, long-life milk, fruit juice, pasta and rice. Non-food items such as toiletries, baby supplies, new socks and small presents have also been welcomed.

Our single biggest donation has been an amazing contribution of £2,000 worth of supplies handed over by former Goodyear workers. The cash was used to buy everything from tins of vegetables, noodle pots and pasta to bottles of squash, long-life milk and jars of coffee.

There was also an array of sweet treats including chocolate selection boxes for youngsters and vital toiletries including toothbrushes, shampoo and deodorant.

The money came from the Goodyear workers 5/344 Transport and General Workers' Union Benevolent Fund.

Unite branch chairman Cyril Barrett said: "It was our privilege to be able to support this wonderful, so badly needed, project in Wolverhampton and the Black Country."

We've also had two large anonymous donations which totalled almost 2,900 items from a community organisation in Staffordshire, who wanted to help those less fortunate. We've been really touched by how people have taken the appeal into their hearts and gone the extra mile.

## Needy bag help from family store

Neetu Mann with husband Kirpal Mann, Rajinda Batth and Janet Freeman

PILES of food was donated to charity with money collected from 5p bag charges.

Owners of Pinson Convenience Store in Willenhall, Neetu Mann, 52, and Kirpar Mann, 57 – who run the family store with their five children – have collected £70 since January from the charge on plastic bags and then added their own contributions with loose change they found to donate food to the less fortunate.

It is part of the Express and Star's Feed a Family campaign where food, toiletries and warm clothes are donated to food banks across the Black Country.

As part of their collection, they have tinned food, crisps, cereal, coffee, mince pies, pasta, biscuits and gravy.

Neetu said: "We said from day one we did not want to keep the change from the bag charges. It is good to help every little bit you can and we hope this will inspire others."

Last year they collected £80 and added £70 of their own money so they had £150 to spend on toys which they wrapped up and gave to children at Birmingham Children's Hospital for Christmas.

## An amazing 12,000 items are collected

Diane Davies

THANK you, thank you, thank you, *writes deputy editor Diane Davies*. Thanks to every single person and group who made a donation and to those who collected items for our Feed A Family at Christmas campaign.

So many people will benefit from the amazing number of items collected. Thank you on the behalf of the homeless, families and households desperately relying on food banks and the women and children being helped by The Haven refuge this year. Having collected more than 9,000 food, toiletries and other items when we first launched the campaign last Christmas I had a secret number in my head this time of how many I hoped we would get this year.

I had my heart set on 10,000 but could not know for sure how our readers and local communities would respond to the campaign. I never dreamed we would actually collect more than 12,000 items – the total has been amazing and completely overwhelming.

## How public, groups and stars rushed in with help

**November** 4: Lisa Riley launches Feed a Family appeal and urges readers to back the campaign. Waitrose in Wolverhampton and the Co-op in Codsall both come on board by hosting donation boxes.
**November** 6: Olympian Joe Clarke shows his support for the second year running and praises the cause.
**November** 8: Antiques Roadshow expert Will Farmer gives the campaign the thumbs-up
**November** 10: Staff and pupils at Wood End Primary School in Wednesfield start collecting as they pledged to support the appeal for the second year in a row.
**November** 11: The Express & Star receives a huge donation of more than 1,200 items of food from rice to biscuits from a kind-hearted Staffordshire organisation
**November** 17: Saddlers Shopping Centre in Walsall announces it will be collecting donations for the second year running
**November** 20: Slade's Dave Hill pledges support, says he enjoys helping to make a difference.
**November** 21: Youngsters, who are part of the HeadStart programme,at the Bob Jones Community Hub in Blakenhall pledge items for the collection.
**November** 22: Pop rock stars The Vamps throw their weight behind the campaign during a visit to switch on the Christmas lights at Merry Hill.
**November** 24: Cannock market trader Anne Franks offers to use her weekly pop-up stall at Cannock Indoor Market to collect items for Feed a Family.
**November** 27: Panto stars Ian Adams and Adam C Booth jumped forward to support the appeal when they popped into the Express & Star offices to meet staff.
**November** 27: Healthwatch groups come on board by saying they will be collecting donations in Wolverhampton, Walsall and Staffordshire
**November** 30: Corrie's Antony Cotton becomes the latest celebrity to back the campaign as he switches on Stourbridge's Christmas lights
**December** 2: The cast of Robin Hood and The Babes in the Wood give their backing to the appeal
**December** 4: Pupils at Oakham Primary School in Oldbury hold an assembly and organise a collection
**December** 6: Dudley North MP Ian Austin donates four boxes of food, toiletries and baby supplies.
**December** 6: Walsall Training Centre staff hand over dozens of donations
**December** 7: Gold medalist Hugh Porter champions Feed a Family This Christmas
**December** 8: Former Goodyear workers give the appeal a huge boost by donating £2,000 of food and toiletries for the good causes.
**December** 9: The Bishop of Dudley speaks out about the importance of food banks and hands over goodies.
**December** 12: We receive a second anonymous donation containing a staggering1,690 items of food.
**December** 14: Pupils from Westcroft School in Wolverhampton deliver their donations to our offices.
**December** 13: Performance Through People hand over festive items such as scarves and gloves, as well as basics.
**December** 14: Workers at Assa Abloy in Willenhall drop off two van-loads .
**December** 21: The final deliveries are made to the food banks in time for Christmas.

# Resident went back to steal from hostel

A FORMER resident of a hostel who returned to steal from fellow tenants has been locked up for a year.

Liam Ponter kept keys to the property in Bushbury Lane, Bushbury when he left and used them to get in while the occupants were not there.

The 21-year-old took a computer, games console, clothing and mobile phone, total value of more than £900, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Mr Neil Ahuja, prosecuting, said the alarm was raised when an employee of the organisation that runs the hostel saw the front door was open as he drove past the building on July 21. There was no sign of a break in and forensic checks found the defendant's fingerprints on a bag.

## Dependancy

Ponter was recognised by a passerby getting off a bus near the address shortly before. The defendant had been responsible for a series of commercial burglaries which led to a short jail term during the run up to the offence, it was said.

He was homeless at the time after leaving an address in Wolverhampton following a falling out with his mother, said Mr Mohammed Naser, defending, who added: "His offending has been a direct result of an inability to cope with his drug dependency."

Ponter, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to burglary.

# New powers to help small firms

A FORMER Wolverhampton MP is leading the drive to secure fair treatment for the 450,000 small business across the West Midlands.

Those firms are suffering from 'poor payments', with bigger firms delaying payments they owe to small firms for months on end.

A third of payments to small businesses are late and one in five firms have run into cash flow problems as a result. If they were paid on time it is estimated it would boost the UK economy by around £2.5 billion a year.

Paul Uppal, former Tory MP for Wolverhampton South West, was recently appointed the UK's Small Business Commissioneer and has been given the power to deal with complaints.

# No to homes plan

PLANS for 29 homes next to Bradmore Recreation Ground have been refused by Wolverhampton Council. Residents feared gridlock on surrounding roads and councillors decided it would be an "overdevelopment."

# Clean-up vow on shopping precinct

The Haymarket in Pendeford

A HOUSING association has vowed to improve the look of a shopping precinct following complaints.

Residents living near The Haymarket in Pendeford says the area needs a clean-up. They have complained of rubbish left on the precinct, bird droppings and a general state of disrepair.

In response, Wolverhampton Homes, which is responsible for part of the area, says it is taking action.

Assistant director Darren Baggs said: "We are working closely with shopkeepers at The Haymarket to get the area tidied up. The shopkeepers are responsible for maintaining the shop frontages and we will continue to address this with local businesses."

He said the areas outside the shops were not currently part of a scheduled maintenance programme, but added this was being addressed alongside the Pendeford Tenants Management Organisation.

He added: "We are responsible for emptying the bins and do this regularly. Steps are already being taken to replace the small bin with a larger one that is more fit for purpose.

"In the meantime, we encourage residents to contact us if any of the bins become full so that we can arrange another visit to empty them."

But Bernard Curtis, who lives in Cornfield, said: "I contacted them a month ago and nothing was done until I got MP Emma Reynolds involved.

"And why should people have to contact them to let them know, they should be checking the bins regularly themselves.

"I want to see more money spent on the area to improve it."

# Help reach cash goal for this brave little girl Isla

**A FUNDRAISING push has been launched by the family of a young girl who is fighting a rare form of cancer.**

Isla Austin was diagnosed with high-risk neuroblastoma on her first birthday – and now her family are looking to raise £150,000 to fund experimental treatment in America.

Former Wolves goalkeeper Matt Murray, who is a family friend, has backed the appeal and urged others to do the same.

Isla has undergone numerous gruelling procedures lasting more than a year, including chemotherapy, radiotherapy, stem cell harvests, surgery and immunotherapy. But that has not knocked the two-year-old's appetite for life.

Isla who has a twin sister Lottie and older brother Finn, four, continues to smile and giggle despite her treatment. Her mother Anna, 37, who went to Dormston School in Sedgley, has had to quit her job to help look after Isla who has regular trips to Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Anna has paid tribute to her battling daughter's resilience and thanked everyone who has donated to the fundraising push – which has already raised more than £20,000 in just four days.

## Inspiration

The family needs to top £155,000 by the end of February.

Anna, who now lives in St Albans with her children and husband Rick, said: "Isla is absolutely amazing and she's our inspiration – she is so courageous, so brave.

"Children are so resilient. At every step of the way she's embraced this and done exactly what the consultants have asked for. She still smiles and giggles when she's in hospital even though she has gone through such a tough time.

"The donations are overwhelming and very humbling – it has taken us by surprise. We're a bit astonished really and truly grateful to everybody and want to thank everyone for their support."

While Isla is currently in remission from cancer, youngsters with neuroblastoma – the same disease which young Sunderland fan Bradley Lowery suffered from – have a 50 per cent chance of a relapse. And relapsed neuroblastoma has a less than 1 in 10 chance of survival. Murray, 36, lived with Anna's aunt and uncle Jan and Peter Morris from 1997 to 2003 in Penn, after leaving school. He said: "They're all amazing, a really close knit family.

"Anna is in the same school year as me and we've all been friends ever since.

"Being a parent myself what Anna and Rick are going through must be so hard.

"Isla is such a happy little girl, always smiling, she's amazing and she's a fighter. The whole family are great people. Her mum spends a lot of time in hospital with her and when I speak to her you can always hear little Isla in the background.

"If we can raise this money and get the family over there then she really deserves it."

To donate visit https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/solvingkidscancer/islaaustin?social_utm_term=u4kq7rjiy

Isla was diagnosed with high-risk neuroblastoma

Isla with twin sister Lottie and brother Finn

Support from ex-Wolves keeper Matt Murray

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Deadline nearing on school places

PARENTS have been reminded to get their child's primary school application in before the looming deadline.

Last year, Staffordshire County Council offered nine out of 10 parents their first choice primary school.

A total of 98 per cent were allocated one of their top three preferred schools.

Now, with the closing date for applications set at January 15, parents are being asked to use the Christmas break to ensure they have the best chance of being allocated a place at their top choice.

For more information go to www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions

## Journalism course in seventh heaven

A JOURNALISM course run by City of Wolverhampton College has been named the best in the country – for the seventh year in a row.

The college was named as the top further education provider of the National Council for the Training of Journalists diploma at the annual NCTJ Awards for Excellence at Hampton Court Palace.

Michael Dixon, head of faculty for creative arts at the college, said: "To win this award for the seventh consecutive year is an amazing achievement."

## Appeal to owners after cars stolen

CAR owners are urged to leave their keys out of sight after an increase in reports of thefts from driveways.

Police in Wolverhampton are advising people to make sure their vehicles are safe and secure overnight.

Drivers are asked to ensure keys cannot be seen and grabbed by thieves.Officers say wires and hooks and can be used to pick up keys through the letterbox.

Tina Fallon, police, engagement and consultations officer for Wolverhampton Partnerships, said: "Please don't make it easy for thieves."

## Warning issued on crime over holiday

POLICE in Wolverhampton have issued advice to make sure people keep safe over the holiday period.

Officers from the Low Hill, Oxley, Bushbury and Fallings Park neighbourhood police teams issued the advice to ensure people aren't conned.

The tips include how to keep your home safe, phone protected, avoid being targeted by pickpockets and keeping your car secure and to stay safe while out socialising.


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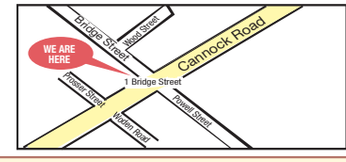


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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

# Crime is crime – in any language

HERE'S a bit of news to warm the cockles of the heart over Christmas. Do you remember the police force in Nottinghamshire that decided wolf-whistling was a "hate crime"? Well the great news is that the one-year trial has been so successful it is being made a permanent fixture.

Taking photographs without consent and verbal abuse are also classed as hate crimes, so it is just as well these new rules weren't being trialled in West Bromwich a few weeks ago. Some of the language used by Albion fans towards Tony Pulis would have made a docker blush.

It's a strange situation when police chiefs decide what is and isn't a crime. In the old days governments made the laws, and the police simply enforced them, so I'm obviously behind the curve on this one. Still, where Nottingham leads, the rest follow, and I dare say we'll see a national crackdown on wolf-whistling in the next year or too.

The logical conclusion is that Nottinghamshire Police are so hot they have totally eradicated all major crime, and are now able to focus on the trivial stuff. But it seems this might not quite be the case.

Just a few weeks ago, the county's police and crime commissioner Paddy Tipping revealed that officers may not investigate shoplifting offences in future to cut costs. Great news for light-fingered low-life, but not so good for shopkeepers who would prefer customers to actually pay for their festive shopping.

Defending the move, Mr Tipping said officers didn't bother with attempted car break-ins, either, unless the victim was particularly vulnerable.

"Is shoplifting as important as investigating a serious sexual assault?" he asked. "It is not." Maybe. But it is a sight more important than wolf-whistling, wouldn't you say?

❒❒❒

FOR all the bad press, I'm quite a fan of budget airline RyanAir. Yes its planes are cramped and the colour schemes migraine inducing, and the endless announcements about cut-price cigarettes and pre-packaged foods infuriating.

But it has brought foreign travel within reach of millions who would otherwise not get the chance, and for punctual short-haul flights at bargain prices, it does exactly what it says on the tin.

But how can it justify charging Lichfield electrician Darren Bliss £110 to correct an error on the tickets caused by predictive phone text? The flight itself cost just £65, and the admin costs would be minimal. The company says it deters people from selling tickets on the black market. It would put me off booking them at all.

## Corbyn's PM assertion relies on a snap election

Prince Philip – good company, sharp as a knife and with a keen sense of humour

Jeremy Corbyn – air of desperation in comment on being PM by next year

Lord Malloch-Brown – why him leading a campaign against Brexit is good news

# No Jeremy, years are against you

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THIS year's Humbuggery Award for mean, grasping and cheapskate yuletide telly goes to the Beeb for the Detectorists Christmas Special which was no such thing, merely a repeat of an earlier episode. Ebenezer would be proud of you, Auntie.

THERE is an air of desperation in Jeremy Corbyn's recent assertion that he will "probably" be prime minister by this time next year. The next General Election may not be until May 2022. If he won then, Mr Corbyn would enter Number Ten just before his 73rd birthday and would be 78 at the end of his first term. His only realistic hope is a snap election in the next couple of years. Even if the polls were for him, the years are against him. Probably.

I'M enjoying The Crown (Netflix), even though we don't know how much of it is factual. Was the party-animal Duke of Edinburgh really given the title "Prince Philip" as part of a deal to make him behave? For what it's worth, I once interviewed the Duke in his office at Buckingham Palace. We were alone for about an hour and he was good company, sharp as a knife and had a keen sense of humour. But my abiding impression was that here was a man who very rarely heard the word "no".

HIS Serene Magnificence the Right Honourable The Lord Malloch-Brown KCMG PC is to lead a campaign against Brexit. This is excellent news for Brexit. Remember those howls of rage when Sir Martin Moore-Bick was appointed head of the Grenfell Tower inquiry? The people demanded to know how a white middle-class retired judge could possible relate to them. Expect more of the same. Malloch-Brown is a double-barrelled product of Marlborough and Cambridge who was never elected to anything by anyone. He was appointed to the House of Lords to serve in Gordon Brown's cabinet. That government ended 10 years ago yet milord still wields power. So let him present his plans to overturn the result of our EU Referendum. Let him try to convince us that someone like him, a gilded veteran of the diplomatic corps and the World Bank, a member of the globetrotting elite and consultant to big businesses, knows anything about the life of a fisherman from Grimsby or a foundry worker in Wolverhampton. Every time a Malloch-Brown, or a Tony Blair, or a Gina Miller tries to tell us what is good for us, it's worth another million votes for Brexit. The toffs versus the people. Bring it on.

AFTER last week's item on the benefits of winter tyres, a reader says his new 4x4 seems "invincible." Oh, beware. In my misspent youth with the Territorial Army, we spent a lot of time digging "invincible" 4x4s out of mud, slush and snow. My troop's personal best was three Land Rovers in a queue, stuck up to their wheel arches. We had to bang on the door of the Royal Armoured Corps and borrow a tracked vehicle to pull them out. Believe me, when the snowman brings the snow what you really need is a Scorpion tank.

DELIGHTED to see gin has overtaken rum, whisky and vodka to become the nation's favourite spirit. In his glorious Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, Douglas Adams says about 85 per cent of all known worlds in the Galaxy have invented a drink called jynnan tonyx, or gee-N'N-T'N-ix, or jinond-o-nicks, "or any one of a thousand variations on this phonetic theme." G&T is a pan-galactic success, so subtle, so complex, so effervescently effective in calming the universe and making all life-forms nicer. The trouble is that the universe, being infinite, just doesn't know when to stop.

SNOWFLAKE kids have been blamed for objecting to a weather message issued by University College London to let students know the place would remain open despite the snow. It went: "Dreaming of a white campus? Our campuses will be open and operating fully today." For anyone of a certain age "white campus" is a clever play on the words "White Christmas" from the much-loved Bing Crosby song of 1942. But some students denounced the message as racist and fascist, and the uni scrapped it, apologising with a grovelling: "We chose our words very poorly." Damn right. Parade the guilty men and women in public and send them for re-education. And for the benefit of any students reading this who are a bit shaky on modern history, Bing Crosby was Adolf Hitler's cultural attache and White Christmas was, of course, the marching song of the Waffen SS. Make sure you include this in your next essay.

SCROOGE was a grasping, covetous sinner but he hounded his debtors regardless of race or creed. He may have been a miserable old git but he was an equal-opportunities miserable old git. Scrooge has served us well every Christmas since 1843 and I see no good reason to muck around with his character now. Incidentally, kids, I'm pretty sure Ebenezer Scrooge would have voted for Brexit. Hiss the villain.

TALKING POINT

# Turkey time gone – now it's back to just JAM

SO Happy New Year everyone, yay! We'll soon have got through the festivities, the euphoria will then be a distant memory, and the winter gloom will be back upon us.

Millions of us will be facing JAM financial repercussions (just about managing), having begged, borrowed and stolen to get the money together for the season of goodwill.

Why do we celebrate the turning of time quite so vehemently when we enter the next instalment of 365 days nearer towards our ultimate demise?

The only common link is that we are all getting older. It is a time of reflection and of course a time to look forward, what can we do this year to improve on things last year?

Like a confessional, the mistakes and heartaches of 2017 can be wiped clean and we promise ourselves a better 2018. But is it really that easy?

Sure move on and try to make things better, but it doesn't all disappear with the wave of a magic wand with resolutions written on it.

One year I truly went for it. I sat down with an A3-lined paper pad and listed things I wanted to change in my life.

Get a girl, sort out my teeth, keep fit, don't drink as much, don't swear as much... they were all there on my resolutions list and I think out of what might have been about 15 or so, I managed two.

Yes, I'm now happily married and my teeth, while not sparklingly white, are definitely better, but the battle of the bulge goes on, and the air turns as blue, just as frequently.

So being realistic is perhaps the way to go with resolutions, after all, unless you are absolutely intent on changing your whole life, no-one on this earth is going to do everything they want.

In the words of John Lennon: "Life is what happens to you when you're busy making other plans..."

Start small – help people, try smiling more often, drink more water etc, you might not change the world, you might not change yourself, but you may feel better about things, which is a starting point.

Today is the first day of the rest of your life. But personally, that doesn't have to happen on January 1, it's whenever you want.

The most successful resolution I had was giving up smoking, January 1, 1991 and I've stuck to it ever since, even when I've been trapped in a Transit van with five other people smoking like chimneys on a trip around Europe...but that's another story!

GRAEME ANDREW

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# Royal wedding date not a mistake

ACCORDING to various parts of the media the Royal Family have made a mistake in naming May 19 as Prince Harry's wedding day – the same day as the FA Cup final.

They claim it will cause problems in the homes with arguments over control of the remote to the TV. Absolute claptrap. People will watch whatever they want to.

They also claim that the FA Cup final 'unifies' the whole country. A doubtful claim at best as only two teams will be contesting the final. Surely that would be divisive? Every other team's supporters don't really care who wins because their team is not there!

It may be a TV 'spectacle' – created by the media – but in no way does a game between two teams unify a whole country. On the other hand the celebration of a Royal marriage may do so.

**M GOUGH**
Wombourne

# Disgust that trees gone

THOUSANDS of people must have noticed by now, so I'm surprised that nobody has expressed their disgust.

In the forecourt of Wolverhampton Railway Station about 25 perfectly healthy trees have been chopped down, apparently to make way for a 'wonderful' new station that we don't need.

We want longer trains, not new stations.

The scale of destruction is unbelievable, with every tree destroyed. I suppose that some of those trees and their roots would have been in the way of the Midland Metro tracks.

Even so, it should have been possible to save at least a few of them.

Here the only growth industry (apart from crime) seems to be chopping down good trees.

**R OLIVER**
Wolverhampton

# Ice: Why old can cope better

MANY of the regular correspondents to this page will remember what the real winter of 1962-63 was like.

It snowed on Boxing day 1962 and the temperature never rose above freezing until Easter Monday 1963.

I can't remember schools closing for a day. I was a paperboy, out on my round at 7am and then off to school. My dad used to warm up my gloves in the oven before I went out. There was no double glazing in classrooms and we were still out on the sports field playing football.

Being an ex-safety officer I know that councils are afraid of claims coming in if anyone slips but how much of the swiftness to close is due to difficulties of staff and pupils not being able to make the journey in by car? We had to walk if the buses stopped.

It was easier walking in the ice-free roads then the frozen pavements as there was not the same volume of traffic as now. That is why nowb you see more pensioners out in the bad weather than young people – they have seen it all before!

**DAVID STEELE**
Wolverhampton

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**POST**
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at www.ipso.co.uk. If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

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# Snow stopping play – humbug!

SO it snows and the country grinds to a halt. Motorways closed, airports on lockdown, schools shut, even some churches. I couldn't even read a Sunday paper in case the delivery person fell over and sued the shop.

So much for health and safety under the EU laws. No one wants to see people injured delivering papers so that might be justified, but airports, motorways, schools, etc, closed because of snow? Yet the pubs were open.

In my 50s paper round. I trudged through snow up to my armpits to deliver. On Sundays you had to collect the money as well.

We couldn't wait to go to school. In 1963 I walked to work in snow up to my waist. Health and safety, nanny state, bah humbug.

**KEITH PARTON**
Wolverhampton

# We don't owe EU anything

I would like to endorse the letter by M Cooper who thinks the same as I do. Why do those bombastic European politicians think we owe them huge amounts of money?

In my opinion, they owe us plenty. There would not be a place called Europe if we had not been so positive in our actions to rid every country of the aggressors. We were helped by America and our colonies.

We spent years after the war, paying America for lease-lend, as M Cooper said in his/her letter, with no help from Europeans. So I agree, we owe them nothing.

**P DARBY**
Bilbrook

# Another example of madness leading to country's demise

TO paraphrase Churchill; never in the field of human electoral dodgy deals have so many been so blatantly shafted by so few.

More than 17 million of us voted to leave the European Union. But as the details of what is actually being agreed to, on 'our behalf' by our so-called Brexit 'negotiators', comes into sharp focus, it's obvious we are being sold down the proverbial river.

The terms, as stated in the media, graphically paint a picture of a complete and bewildering capitulation to the EU. In fact we appear not to be leaving at all, certainly not remotely in the way demanded and expected by the electorate. It would appear that with the help of our own government, the EU is tenaciously hanging on to us. Why? Simples, we are a cash cow for them to milk.

Just do the maths. Far from agreeing to hand over tens of billions of pounds in 'fines', for having the temerity to want back our sovereignty as an independent nation, they owe us a rebate for the hundreds of billions of pounds we have made to the loony EU project in net contributions over the years.

This latest saga is another example of the madness in the way this once proud country is being led to its demise by the politicians of all three main parties.

**JOHN REED**
Wolverhampton

# Short supply of any sense

CAN anyone explain to me why in freezing temperatures some idiots are walking about in shorts?

Is it a macho thing or are they just Xmas crackers? In one morning I witnessed several numbchucks sliding about on the ice with their shorts on. Postmen in particular seem prone to this.

Shorts in the summer are bad enough showing off knobbly knees but wearing them in the winter only emphasises milk bottle white legs.

**IAN HUNTER**
Willenhall

# Donate to help MS treatment

MY older sister was diagnosed with MS when we were in our early 30s and the news came as a blow to my family. MRI tests had only just been invented but no one was offered treatments because there weren't any.

We've made tremendous strides in MS research but with 100,000 people affected in the UK, what we really need is to find a way to stop MS.

That's why I'm supporting the MS Society. Its Christmas appeal is aiming to raise £250,000 to fund three landmark trials and turn existing drugs into treatments for MS.

I'd love for readers to join me, and donate at www.ms-society.org.uk/elf.

**ALUN ARMSTRONG**
Actor

# Blair should accept referendum result

TONY Blair's latest rant confirms what an arrogant undemocratic self opinionated autocratic type of leader he was.

In his latest statement, he claims the Labour Parties take on Brexit is the same as the Tories' and just as divided. He adds that Labour should come out in opposition to leaving the EU, regardless of what the electorate voted for.

Why should the Labour Party or anyone else have any trust in what Blair claims?

He went ahead with the war in Iraq without proof of Weapons of Mass Destruction, and without a second UN resolution.

There was also massive public opposition to the war, but he chose to ignore it and what a mess it has all turned out to be.

I believe he should shut up and accept the outcome of the referendum, because there is a thing called democracy in this country.

And his time would be better spent suggesting exit strategies that would be best for all, rather than trying to make a mockery of the democratic system.

At the moment he is doing the Labour Party and its leader more harm than good with his biased comments.

**PAUL WITTON**
Cannock

# The short memories of nations

WHILE we were paying the US back all the lend-lease money in the Second World War, they were rebuilding their lot, and we still had rationing. And we had bomb damage to be put right.

I'm sorry I can't remember Russia paying us anything for all those arctic convoys and men who lost their lives taking it to them? Like tanks and planes and guns, etc.

Doesn't Germany remember the air lift and all the supplies we took to them when they were starving and got no coal for heating? Did we ask for money first?

I think the Yanks could have let us off a bit with that lend-lease.

**MR F H JENNINGS**
Birmingham

# Crime hotspots – with 2,000 in eight months

**MORE than 2,000 crimes have been committed in eight months in just four parts of Wolverhampton.**

The worst hit is Low Hill where there has been double the amount of crimes of neighbouring areas – around three every day.

These range from burglaries and robberies to car thefts and vandalism. From April to November this year, Low Hill saw 800 reported crimes.

The other hotspots include Fallings Park where 446 crimes were reported, Oxley had 398 and Bushbury 393. The total for April to November 2017 across the four areas is 2,037, up from last year where Low Hill saw 758 reported crimes, with Bushbury at 353 reported crimes.

### Vehicles

Fallings Park however had 500 crimes reported in 2016 and Oxley saw 422 – indicating a slight decrease in the number of reported crimes in these patches. In 2016, the total number of reported crimes of this type across the four areas was 2,033.

This means that crime is up overall by almost two per cent. In Low Hill and Bushbury thefts from vehicles is among crimes showing an increase.

Bushbury North councillor Daniel Warren, said: "These are preventable crimes by having more bobbies on the beat. The local police team that we do have do a brilliant job, I just wish there was more."

Sergeant Gavin Plumridge said: "We are currently showing a reduction in total recorded crime across two of the four wards within the last 12 months.

In the Bushbury North Ward we've had a push on tackling shop thefts which has resulted in a significant reduction of 50 per cent in total recorded crime during December. We added four new PCSOs to our neighbourhood team alone."

## Good news for college

City of Wolverhampton staff and students celebrate the Good rating

A COLLEGE has maintained its good Ofsted rating after an inspection by the schools watchdog.

City of Wolverhampton College was ranked as good overall – and in seven of eight inspection areas.

Inspectors praised students' high achievement rates, development of the skills they need for further study or work, and progression to further training or employment. The college's culture of high expectations and close relationships with local and regional employers were also highlighted.

Principal Claire Boliver said: "We are all about getting people on the right track. We are extremely passionate about that and that comes through in the report."


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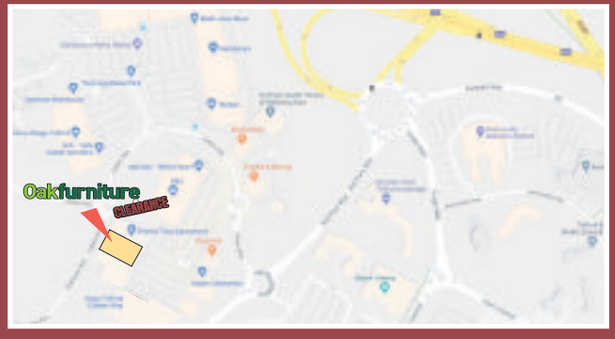

# Mistaken ID blew cover of drug man

A DRUG dealer's cover was blown because he looked like a wanted man, a judge heard.

Steven Nicholls was cycling away from his home when stopped by police on January 10, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting, explained: "Police were following an inquiry in relation to another matter and thought that the defendant looked like their suspect."

The 25-year-old defendant was not the right man but was found to be carrying cannabis and a small amount of heroin when searched by the officers.

## Messages

More cannabis, worth a total of £290, was found at his home, along with tell-tale text messages on his mobile phone which confirmed he was dealing in the drug, added the prosecutor.

Nicholls, from Graiseley Lane, Wednesfield, admitted possession of cannabis with intent to supply and was given an eight-month jail sentence which was suspended for two years with 150 hours of unpaid work.

Recorder Abigail Nixon told him: "You have no previous convictions and since your arrest you have given up on smoking cannabis which you were previously doing on a daily basis."

# Relatives of woman are being sought

RELATIVES of a woman who died are being asked to get in touch with Wolverhampton Council.

Edith Guest died recently, aged 92. She previously lived in the Low Hill area of Wolverhampton and for many years lived in Goldthorn Hill.

Contact Emma Dart on 01902 555394 or email emma.dart2@wolverhamp ton.gov.uk

# Petrol station plan in for empty land by coffee bar

**VACANT land next to a coffee bar on the edge of Wolverhampton could be turned into a petrol station if council bosses approve.**

Plans submitted to Wolverhampton Council reveal that the land, next to the new Costa Coffee branch along the Stafford Road at the junction with the M54 could be used as a petrol station for Euro Garages.

The site not only houses the new branch of the coffee shop but also a Porsche garage. If approved, the new garage would include a retail unit and provide jobs for local people, according to the applicant.

The petrol station would have six pumps and an adjoining shop. The shop will be glass and aluminium fronted. It will also be landscaped with trees planted at the site. There will be 13 parking spaces, a bicycle store and an electric charging point.

## Feedback

According to a statement released by Euro Garages: "The site is located within a commercialised setting as well as within easy reach of several residential areas.

"It is considered a Petrol Filling Station at the site would provide a valued road side facility complementing the area's existing offer whilst providing small top-up shopping provision for local residents and the local business community.

"The proposal would result in job creation for local people and represents sustainable economic development."

Councillor Ian Angus, Labour councillor for Bushbury North, said: "I'm keen to hear from residents but the feedback I have received so far has been overwhelmingly positive."

# Carillion: New boss to join earlier

TROUBLED construction giant Carillion has parachuted its new chief executive into the firm earlier than previously planned.

The Wolverhampton-based group, which is embroiled in an ongoing crisis that has involved a string of profits warnings, said Andrew Davies' start date will now be January 22 rather than April 2.

Interim boss Keith Cochrane will step down from his role in January but will remain with Carillion in an advisory capacity to ensure an orderly transition, the firm added. Mr Davies is currently the chief executive of Wates Group, where he has held the role since 2014.

Prior to that, he was in a series of senior roles with BAE Systems over a 28-year period and he is also non-executive director at Chemring.

Carillion employs 400 at its head office in Salop Street, Wolverhampton.

# Players bring cheer to sick children

Lauren Delahaye, aged 14, and dad Paul with Ruben Neves, Ruben Vinagre, Diogo Jota and Barry Douglas

WOLVES stars handed out some early Christmas presents when they dropped in at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital.

Ruben Neves, Diogo Jota, Barry Douglas and Ruben Vinagre spent time at the children's ward meeting youngsters and their families for the club's traditional Christmas visit.

The players spent two hours handing out goody bags and chatting to the starstruck children. Among those they met were 13-year-old Oscar Woodland, a diehard Wolves fan, as well as his parents Caryn and Andy, from Cannock. An emotional Caryn said: "Oscar's got autism and ADHD so it means a lot for him. It's made his day."

Neil Sansom, a season ticket holder at Molineux for 22 years, said the players had put a smile on everyone's face.

He was there with five-month-old son James, who has bronchitis. Neil said: "It's really good for Wolves to come down, it's a great gesture from them and the club and very much appreciated."

Scottish left back Douglas, who recently discovered his partner was pregnant, said it was a pleasure to make a difference at Christmas.

"We've met a few of the kids and heard their stories, it's nice to make them smile. It's rewarding for us too to know we've made someone's day."

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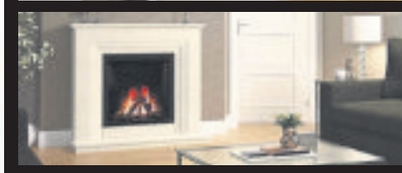

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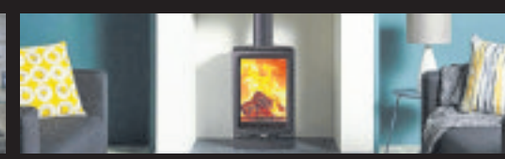
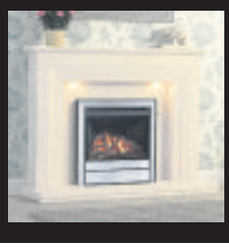

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# Charity alert on free school meals threat

ALMOST 130,000 children living in poverty in the West Midlands will miss out on free school meals under universal credit proposals, new estimates from The Children's Society reveal.

The government is now planning to introduce means testing, which The Children's Society warns will fail to reach around 130,000 children in poverty in the West Midlands.

Figures from The Children's Society show that once a family with one child passes the £7,400 threshold, they would need to earn £1,124 a year more, the equivalent of working 2.4 hours more each week at national living wage, to make up for the loss in free school meals.

# Drug dealer rumbled by mobile phone ringing

**A DRUG dealer was caught out when his mobile phone wouldn't stop ringing after he was pulled over.**

James Vallis' links to cocaine, cannabis and ecstasy supply were uncovered after his BMW was pulled over in Stafford Road, Wolverhampton last year.

In the boot officers found a small bag of cannabis, two mobile phones and more than £1,000 in cash. The 23-year-old was arrested on suspicion of dealing cannabis, but while he was in custody the phones found in the car were constantly ringing and messages revealed links to Class A drug dealing.

When police went to re-arrest Vallis last New Year's Eve, they found cocaine, ketamine, ecstasy and cash at his home in Newbridge Street, Whitmore Reans, as well as more drugs in his car.

An iPhone was also discovered but Vallis snatched it from officers and smashed it against a wall.

He was jailed for five years at Wolverhampton Crown Court after admitting three counts of possession with intent to supply cocaine, one count of possession with intent to supply cannabis, two counts of possession with intent to supply ecstasy and two counts of possession with intent to supply ketamine.

# Short story is write way to start the year

WITH the holidays under way there is still time to put pen to paper and take part in our short story writing competition as part of a literature festival.

Our sister paper the Express & Star launched the competition last month as part of the Wolverhampton Literature Festival, with the winning story to be read out at the event and printed in the paper.

It will be read out by award-winning local author Paul Dowswell at Wolverhampton Art Gallery and will follow his talk with fellow writer Ian Billings entitled Writing for Fun and Profit on January 28 from 12.30-1.30pm.

Deputy editor Diane Davies said: "We have had a number of interesting stories coming in and I expect a few more after the pre-Christmas mayhem when people have a little time to sit and write. However the deadline is January 6, so I hope budding writers will get their artistic juices flowing now so we can see the fruits of their labours."

To enter writers can submit a story on any subject of around 1,200 words. It must be an original piece of fiction and not an account of real events. Email your stories to karen.baker@expressandstar.co.uk or post them to Editor's Secretary Karen Baker, Express & Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

# Red sky at night, a real city delight

**Rooftops against the stunning red sky**

IT could be the closing shot of a film, but this image was in fact captured by a council staff member.

The image, which was tweeted out, shows the view over the Banks's site just outside Wolverhampton city centre. It was taken from the Civic Centre and shows off the city's chimney tops against a burnt red and orange sky.

The image, with its plumes of steam rising from chimneys, harks back to the industrial heritage of Wolverhampton through the decades. Tweeting about the picture, @WolvesCouncil, said: "Amazing sunset tonight in #Wolverhampton here's the view over @BankssBeer."

The image is the latest artistic offering by Banks's which unveiled its amusing Christmas advent calendar earlier this month.

The firm's unconventional and well-known graffiti campaign saw the brewery transform a disused, boarded-up building into a giant, 11-metre-tall advent calendar. Each of the 25 windows on the old Brewbaker's building revealed a cheeky Christmas-themed graffiti design and witty commentary.

# New housing boss appointed for region

A GOVERNMENT expert has been recruited as the new housing chief for the West Midlands Combined Authority.

Gareth Bradford takes on the job of director of housing and regeneration after leaving the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in London.

Gareth will oversee implementation of the WMCA's plans to increase the supply of land for housing and employment to help meet growth levels set out in its Strategic Economic Plan.

He joins the senior leadership team being established by West Midlands Mayor Andy Street and WMCA chief executive Deborah Cadman.

Gareth said: "I am delighted to be joining Andy, Deborah and the rest of the team at what is an exciting time for the West Midlands.

"This region has a large and ever-increasing population which needs to be properly housed."

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The maintenance hangar at Pendeford

Don Everall tours' pre-War poster

Staff at the airport including Don and Peter Everall

Andrew Gould's painting of a Don Everall DC-3

# Reminder of that time when airline flew high

**THE Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre has just placed on display an original poster for Don Everall Tours.**

Also a painting of a DC-3 airliner, of Don Everall Aviation, taking off from Wolverhampton Airport.

These are reminders of a time when Don Everall was the most famous name in Black Country travel.

Don Everall began his coach firm between the wars when coaches were known as charabancs, and Don was often to be found behind the wheel. His empire expanded to include garages, travel shops, and even destinations, including a caravan park in Wales.

## MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

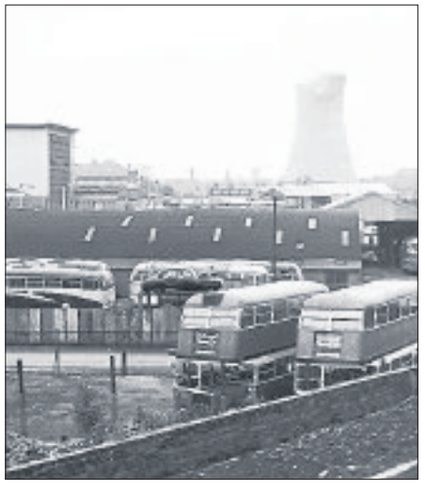
In 1951 he took over a small Birmingham airline called Lees-Hill Aviation, and soon began scheduled flights to the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man with eight seat Dragon Rapide airliners.

Don Everall Aviation took over the running of Wolverhampton Airport at Pendeford, which also became their maintenance base. For a time the scheduled flights operated from there, and you could fly to the Channel Islands from Pendeford for £12 return.

In 1957 larger DC-3 airliners were introduced then Vickers Vikings with holiday flights to the Med, but when Don learned the cost of upgrading to Viscount turbo-prop airliners he baulked and sold out to another airline.

The company still ran the airport until its closure in 1971, and its travel business survived for many years after that.

Local artist Andrew Gould has painted a picture of a Don Everall DC-3 taking off from Pendeford and has donated a print to the Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre, where further limited edition prints can be bought. It is a reminder of a time when Wolverhampton's own airline flew from the city's own airport.



Don Everall's coach garage at Monmore Green

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The class of '62 share old stories of their time at Northicote Secondary Modern

# Raising a glass to school memories

Report by Dave Cosgrove

CHEERS and thanks for the memories! Former students from a secondary school raised a glass during a reunion more than half a century down the line.

The ex-pupils of Northicote Secondary Modern – which became Northicote Comprehensive during their time at school – met up 55 years after they had stepped through the school gates in Wolverhampton for the final time.

Nearly half of the 38-strong class attended the reunion at the Beefeater at Moseley Park, which included a sit-down meal.

The event gave the class of '62 a chance to share old stories of their time at the school – as well as update their former classmates on what they have been doing with their lives since they left.

The reunion was organised by Sandra Wellings and proved a hit with the former pupils.

# Casino lunch chips in with £2k charity aid

A NETWORKING lunch held at a casino raised more than £2,000 for charity.

Casino 36 in Wolverhampton hosted the fundraising lunch, with special guest speaker Steve 'Poundland' Smith. The event raised £2,063.27 for the local campaign Legacy-4Lucy, which raises money for Breast Cancer Now.

It brought together more than 75 guests from businesses all over the Black Country, who lent their support.

Following a lunch, Steve Smith gave an insight into his journey with Poundland and his tips for business success.

There was a raffle with prizes donated by Casino 36, Heaven by Deborah Mitchell, Tile Choice, The Mount Hotel, Corbelli Wines and an auction for a boxing glove signed by Anthony Joshua donated by Staff Today.

Jason Guy, from the Legacy4Lucy campaign, said: "I would like to thank Steve Smith and the events sponsors."

# Games will bring boost to economy of the region

Report by Richard Guttridge

**THE arrival of the Commonwealth Games will bring jobs and provide a huge boost to the West Midlands economy, council leaders have insisted.**

Birmingham has started a five-year countdown to some of the world's biggest sporting stars arriving in the region.

There will be much work to do in that time to make sure the region is ready for the competition, including building a new multi-million pound aquatics centre in Sandwell to host swimming and diving events.

Roger Lawrence

Hotels, restaurants and other businesses can expect the tills to be ringing when thousands of sports fans from all over the world descend on the West Midlands.

Black Country Chamber of Commerce chief executive Corin Crane said: "We are wholeheartedly pleased about the announcement. It is fantastic for the country and this region as well as Birmingham.

"It will have knock-on benefits for the Black Country because it is so close to the city.

"The huge investment will be an opportunity for our firms, most of all the construction businesses in our area. Our hotels and tourism businesses will also get a boost as well as the service sector. The chamber will be all over this in supporting our businesses to win contracts in the new year."

## Cost

Manchester and Glasgow have benefitted hugely from hosting the competition in recent years.Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling said the Commonwealth Games would be huge for the region.

He said: "It will be good for the visitor economy, it will bring in lots of people to spend money.

"People will be coming from around the world who are maybe visiting the West Midlands for the first time, staying at hotels, using restaurants, supporting jobs and the local economy."

The event is expected to cost Birmingham £750 million but Councillor Eling feels the benefits outweigh any concerns over spend.

Wolverhampton council leader Roger Lawrence said: "The region is in a very strong place at the moment with the Commonwealth Games and the City of Culture for Coventry. It's very much a region on the rise and the Black Country will benefit from all of this."

# College chance to put people on right course

A RANGE of part-time courses are getting under way at a college in the new year – and people can find out more at an open day next month.

City of Wolverhampton College's three main campuses – Paget Road in Compton, Wellington Road in Bilston and Metro One in the city centre – will be open from 10am-2pm on Saturday, January 20.

The open day will be a chance for people to talk to staff about qualifications to improve their skills and boost their job prospects.

Tutors will be on-hand with details of part-time courses starting later in the month. To book a place at the event and find out which campus to visit for individual subjects go to www.wolvcoll.ac.uk/events or call 01902 836000.

Kim Fribbins, centre, celebrates moving into her new home on a former lorry park in Telford

# Can brownfield sites solve housing crisis?

## With the Government's target of 200,000 homes to be built every year until the end of this parliament, all development concepts are in the spotlight

**Kim Fribbins is thrilled with her new home on the site of a former lorry park in Randlay, writes Mark Andrews.**

Earlier this year the 59-year-old became one of the first tenants of Telford & Wrekin's flagship NuPlace scheme to bring brownfield sites around the borough back into use to provide much-needed housing. While there has been some controversy about the economics of the scheme – local Conservatives believe the scheme is better handled by the private sector – few people would dispute that building houses on brownfield sites is a good idea.

Such developments are a local council's dream. The Government's stated target is for 200,000 new homes to be built every year until the end of this parliament, although the House of Lords last year said the number needed was actually 300,000. By contrast, 1.1 million new homes have been built over the past six years, averaging 183,000 a year. Developing brownfield sites not only helps local authorities meet these ever-increasing targets without encroaching on the green belt, it also brings eyesore sites back into use and brings jobs and income into the area. Little wonder councils are so keen to encourage such projects.

Indeed, a new report from the Federation of Master Builders suggests there is scope to create 300,000 to 400,000 new homes across Britain by converting vacant space above high street shops. Communities Secretary Sajid Javid has said he will look 'very closely' at the report, which suggests councils should ensure planning documents make explicit reference to such development. Could this be the panacea to the housing crisis?

Probably not. While brownfield redevelopment undoubtedly has an important role to play, a new study focusing on Telford, Dudley and Sandwell suggests planners would be unwise to pin too much hope on such schemes delivering all their housing needs.

The research, sponsored by think-tank The Gracechurch Group, compared land on the new pilot brownfield registers with government housing targets – and found the viable opportunities fell well short of what was needed.

Last year, housing minister Brandon Lewis launched a pilot scheme involving 73 local authorities, including Telford, Dudley and Sandwell, which would register all brownfield sites suitable for redevelopment on a national database.

The Gracechurch Group, a think-tank representing four companies in the planning, investment and development sectors, compared the housing need targets set by government for 67 of the pilot authorities, with the available brownfield land on the register. It found wild disparities between areas in the ability of brownfield land to meet housing need, but found that on average the amount of available land was well below that required to meet housing targets.

Of the three West Midland authorities, Sandwell had by far the best prospect, perhaps unsurprising considering the amount of land vacated by industrial decline. The study identified 249 such sites in Sandwell, covering 1,154 acres, which could potentially yield 14,440 new homes. Given that the Government has identified a need of 1,432 homes to be built in the borough every year, Sandwell's brownfield sites have the potential need to meet demand for more than 10 years.

> 'Just 25 sites could provide 22 per cent of all brownfield homes'

In Telford and Wrekin, it is estimated that there is enough brownfield land to meet the housing requirements of the next 5.4 years. The authority is said to have 272 acres of brownfield land spread across just 26 sites, with the potential to yield 2,995 homes, against an annual requirement of 555 homes. There is clearly scope for brownfield sites in both Sandwell and Telford to make a significant contribution to the housing shortfall, although whether this would be anything more than a short-term solution remains to be seen.

In last month's Budget, Chancellor Philip Hammond set a target that 20 per cent of new homes should be built on small sites to ensure that brownfield sites are used efficiently.

Mr Lawson-May suggests a different approach. He says just 25 sites could provide 22 per cent of all brownfield homes in England.

"Supersites such as these should be targeted urgently and centrally to see if they are sustainable," he adds. "If they're not, it would be better to return them to nature and build on green field than spend many years debating their future.

# Life as a coal miner really was the pits

'I just don't know how they did it in these conditions,' said Richie Woodhall

**HAVING traded punches with Joe Calzaghe, Thulani Malinga and Roy Jones Jr, boxer Richie Woodhall is hardly averse to earning a living the hard way.**

But he was left shocked by his brief taste of life as a Shropshire miner, which he says has given him a fresh respect for those who toiled beneath his home town in the days of the Industrial Revolution.

"I couldn't imagine doing this for 12 hours, I just don't know how they did it in those conditions," says Telford's former world boxing champion, as he takes takes a pick to the coal several hundred feet beneath the ground.

"I just don't know how they did it in these conditions," he says, as he empties his mouth of coal dust. "I was only working down there for about 20 minutes, but I really wouldn't be able to stand it. I've never experienced anything like it, it was terrible."

Alison Vermee at the miners' memorial

Richie travelled to the National Coal Mining Museum for England in Wakefield, Yorkshire, to get a taste of what life would have been like as a 19th century miner after hearing a tragic tale of how nine miners lost their lives in a disaster at Madeley's iron ore pit in 1864. His research – and his brief experience of a miners' life – was shown in a short film for the BBC's Inside Out series.

"I have always been interested in local history, and I decided I really wanted to know about the Nine Men of Madeley after the events to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the disaster a few years ago," he says.

The disaster happened at Brick Kiln Leasow pit, in Madeley, on September 27, 1864. The site, opposite what is now Telford's Madeley Academy, is well known to Richie. Known as the "Black Ash", the pit mound was a popular play area when

**Report by Mark Andrews**

he was growing up as a youngster on the Woodside estate.

"When I was a kid, I would be playing with my mates over there, playing tick or hide and seek," he recalls. "As I got older I would run up and down the mound because it was a good training run in the mornings."

At 5.40pm on the day of the disaster, the miners had just come to the end of their shifts and were preparing to return to the surface.

Madeley resident and historian Alison Vermee is the driving force behind a heritage trail and website commemorating the disaster. She says: "The nine men had been on a shift, probably a 12-hour shift, they were coming up a mineshaft and the contraption they were coming up on was called the doubles."

The crude device consisted of a 10ft chain with makeshift "seats" attached, which would then be attached to a winding chain connected to an engine.

During their ascent towards the surface, the hook that connected the lift to the winch somehow became detached.

Three hundred feet up, in almost total darkness, dangling from a single chain, the nine miners plunged to their deaths.

"Benjamin Davies, one of the men who died, he was the 'hooker on'," says Alison. "It was his job at the end of the shift to put that hook through the loop and the men would be winched up.

The "banksman" for this shift was one William Wallett – almost certainly the son of Edward, one of the nine men who lost their lives.

Actually describing the miners as "men" is a bit of a misnomer.

Edward Wallet was the oldest, at 52, Benjamin Davies was 35 and John Tranter 37. But the rest were all youngsters: two of them were 18, there was a 13-year-old and a 14-year-old. The youngest was just 12.

A verdict of accidental death was returned.

As a young man Richie fought at the Anstice Memorial working men's club, which was named after mining magnate John Anstice.

"Generally speaking, I think he was looked upon as a very good employer, who looked after his employees well, but I think that is in the context of working conditions and observation of the law at the time," says Alison.

Anstice did at least ensure that the Nine Men of Madeley got a decent send-off, paying for a lavish funeral and a prominent enclosed grave at the top of St Michael's Church yard in Madeley.

# Drink-driving crackdown

A CAMPAIGN targeting drink drivers has been launched in south Staffordshire.

South Staffordshire Council is teaming up with Staffordshire Police on the annual initiative.

The crackdown aims to educate about the dangers of drinking alcohol before driving and also reduce the number of drink-drive offences. Police constable Wayne Green said: "Drink driving kills and ruins lives.

"It's a major cause of road traffic collisions and our police officers will be out and about and carrying out roadside checks throughout the day and night to keep the roads in South Staffordshire safer.""

# Raising a child can mean monthly cost of nearly £450

**THE cost of raising a child is almost £450 per month, taking up nearly a fifth of a parent's salary, a new report has found.**

Mothers and fathers of children aged up to 11 spend an average of £448.41 a month per child, Halifax found. This equates to £5,380.92 per year, or nearly a fifth of the average salary, at £29,009. The findings suggest that by the time a child reaches secondary school aged 11, parents will have spent nearly £60,000.

Food takes up the bulk of the monthly cost, at £86.85 per child on average, the report found, while £60.69 goes on holiday costs and around £80 goes on toys and hobbies.

According to the research, parents spend an average of £57 per month on childcare per child, although a quarter (24 per cent) have relatives who help out with childcare.

For those who do pay for childcare the figures could therefore be significantly higher than the average, Halifax said.

Nearly half of parents have cut back on going out and socialising since having children, the research found. And just over two-fifths have cut back on meals out in restaurants.

Giles Martin, head of Halifax Savings said: "Having children is a huge financial and emotional commitment."

# People urged to use pharmacies

PEOPLE in a city are being encouraged to make the most of local pharmacies this Christmas.

Wolverhampton residents are being reminded that some pharmacies will be open on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day to offer treatments and free advice on common illnesses.

Pharmacists can offer advice on common illnesses,perform health checks, screenings and treat minor injuries. Details of openings over the festive period are at wolverhamptonccg.nhs.uk/news

# Tributes pour in for Paddy – a dedicated archivist

Paddy Davies, Chris Leggett and Jackie Harrison in June 2015 working on the digitising project in the Express & Star archives

A 'KIND, generous and dedicated' archivist with a passion for education and the preservation of local history has died.

Tributes have been flooding in for Paddy Davies since the news of her death broke. Paddy, who lived in Tettenhall, worked as a principal technician and purchasing co-ordinator at City of Wolverhampton College, formerly Wulfrun College, for 47 years.

She was also an avid supporter of Wolverhampton City Archives and a dedicated volunteer. Part of her work saw her help in the digitisation of the Express & Star archives in 2015. She was in her early 70s when she died at the end of November.

Chris Leggett, director of marketing and communications at MNA Media, which runs the Express & Star, said: "Paddy made a fantastic contribution to the photo archive, especially in the early stages of the volunteer project. We benefited from her enthusiasm and dedication, as well as the warmth she showed to everyone she met at the Express & Star."

Paddy was also committed to the preservation of local history. Local historian, Ned Williams, who also worked with Paddy over the years said: "Paddy was kind, generous and dedicated. She threw herself into everything she did."

Heidi McIntosh, senior archivist at Wolverhampton City Archives said: "She was an avid supporter of Wolverhampton City Archives and a regular visitor to our various events."

Jackie Harrison, an archives volunteer said: "I will remember Paddy most for her rather off-beat sense of humour and her dedication to the preservation of local history."

# Framework to go up on £14m showroom

BUILDERS are preparing to launch into the next phase of work to bring a multi-million pound development to Wolverhampton. Former industrial land near the city centre is being transformed into a Jaguar Land Rover showroom.

The steel framework for the £14 million plans on Penn Road – near Ring Road St Marks – is set to rise up at the four-acre plot in January.

Economy boss Councillor John Reynolds said: "This is a major development in this area – regenerating a redundant site in a prominent position on a gateway to the city."

Land at the site, next to the Waitrose supermarket off Penn Road, stood derelict for more than a decade before work to revamp the site began.

A large internal showroom with space for 18 vehicles will be created, with a workshop, service area and reception. Contractor Speller Metcalfe is carrying out the work on behalf of Jardine Motor Group.

# Take a walk on wildside

WALKING enthusiasts are invited to join a group aimed at finding out more about the wildlife in their area.

The Wild About Perton walking groups meets on the first Saturday of the month from 2pm at Perton Library based on Severn Drive.

Each walk lasts two and a half hours and is along public footpaths.

For more information, contact Keith Elder on 01902 754 245 or visit www.wildaboutperton@live.co.uk.

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Bitcoin has become a major investment trend of late

# Is Bitcoin the future of money or finance fad?

Digital currency Bitcoin has swiftly become the world's hottest investment trend. Our brave reporter Carl Jackson decided to ride the cash bandwagon

**Like many I had heard the furore around Bitcoin via word of mouth from a rather enthusiastic friend of mine.**

It all sounded a bit too technical and to be honest, too good to be true, so my first instinct was to nod, smile and dismiss it.

But having been subject to the same passionate sales pitch a second and third time I decided to see what all of the fuss was about.

First of all, what exactly is Bitcoin? In simple terms it is a new type of money but it is not backed by a bank or ruling authority.

Instead transactions take place on the internet via a network and are recorded on a public ledger called a blockchain. The concept is that payments can be made directly between two parties without an intermediary.

Still with me? If not, it really doesn't matter. While I am sure it is an appealing concept for many not to have banks interfere with their money what really has people going gaga over Bitcoin is its investment potential.

You buy Bitcoin using normal currency – pounds, dollars, euros, etc. And while there are certain ways to spend it directly its true attraction is to simply buy it low and sell it high like a stock. The numbers are hard to ignore. In recent months the gains have been nothing short of astronomical. There have been many peaks and troughs since its inception in 2009 when it was nothing more than an experiment among a small online community.

But let's just take 2017 as a case in point.

At the beginning of the year a single Bitcoin was worth around $970 (£728). But last month its value soared past the $10,000 (£7,496) milestone which naturally captured the attention of the mainstream media, particularly in America. That's an increase of more than 1,000 per cent in less than 12 months.

You can do any sum you want but the bottom line is anyone who owned Bitcoin at the start of the year is rubbing their hands now and contemplating early retirement while sceptics are thinking 'why didn't I invest?'

And it hasn't stopped there, further landmarks and glass ceilings have since been surpassed, including the £10,000 barrier in the UK. At the time of writing one Bitcoin is worth circa £13,000 ($17,000).

People with substantial amounts invested are already looking ahead to what might be in 2018 and pricing up their own tropical islands.

Of course, these are not random increases.

Spikes are usually prompted by major developments such as backing from a heavyweight financial institution.

Announcements around improvements to the technology or even its mere presence in the news can all provoke a flurry of investment driving the value skyward.

As with any investment, knowledge is power.

But it is not all sunshine and speedboats. Naturally there is a downside.

Ironically, the first drawback is in the very thing that makes Bitcoin unique. No backing from the banks means – for the time-being at least – no regulation and no protection for the consumer.

Notoriously, in 2014, Japanese-based exchanger Mt. Gox went bankrupt at a time when it was handling 70 per cent of the world's Bitcoin transactions. Millions of pounds worth of customer investment went with it.

One criticism of the currency is the claim it is predominantly used for criminal activity ranging from purchasing drugs to funding terrorism. Another reservation is that the opportunity for a quick profit has created an incredibly volatile market with the occasional dramatic price plummet – which is not for the faint-hearted investor.

But the major warning from those predicting Bitcoin's doom is that it is a bubble which will simply burst.

And yet for every prophecy that it will crash and burn comes an announcement of another big backer taking it seriously, giving further credence to its legitimacy. Some industry commentators now say it rivals gold as a storage of wealth. Having weighed up the pros and cons, I've decided to put my money where my mouth is and invest a non-insignificant amount.

It is surprisingly easy as well – you can do it on a smartphone with a free app. Ultimately financial experts remain divided as to whether Bitcoin is the currency of the future or merely another 'Ponzi' scheme. Personally I'm willing to pay to find out.

> 'And yet for every prophecy it will crash comes an announcement of another big backer taking it seriously'

Mark Karpeles' Bitcoin venture firm Mt. Gox went bust in 2014

# 'Frightening' how many drink and drive

Police are carrying out their festive drink-driving campaign

Report by Jordan Reynolds

**HE had been banned once before for drink driving and was pulled over again by the police after coming out of a pub.**

He was breathalysed by Sergeant Gavin Williams – who noticed his eyes were glazed – and blew 27, close to the legal limit of 35 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath.

The driver, who was pulled over in a village in the county, told the officers he had "been done" for drink driving before so he knew what he was allowed to drink.

He said: "I've only had two pints. I've been done for this before so I know all the limits. I saw the police car behind me and thought, 'should I even get in this car?'."

After a quick vehicle check to ensure the car was insured and taxed, the driver was sent on his way with some words of advice.

Drivers are being breathalysed

Sergeant Williams said: "He was very close to the limit, he was not over, but he was intoxicated."

The sergeant was out in the county with Inspector Nigel Webster and had invited the media along to see what the police are doing as part of their Christmas campaign to stop people driving while under the influence of drink and drugs.

The campaign started on December 1 and runs through to December 31.

Over the past three years 13 people have been killed and 109 seriously injured in West Mercia following collisions where drink or drugs were recorded as a factor.

The consequences if caught drink driving are a possible six months imprisonment, an unlimited fine and a driving ban for at least one year.

Inspector Webster said: "Recently a parent has gone to pick their child up from school and had been drinking. There's the possibility of a child or many children being seriously hurt there. It's not just about catching them, it's about referring them to the right places and helping them.

"When I spoke to this person's partner he was pleased that we'd intervened as she wouldn't listen to him."

Sergeant Williams said that with Christmas parties more people are out drinking than normal.

He added: "We tend to have a lot of people who don't go out all year and then build it up and drink on one day.

"There's a lot of competition for the taxis, a lot are fully booked, so some people drink and drive who would never normally.

"It's frightening how many people do drink and drive, or use drugs and drive."

While Sergeant Williams drives, Inspector Webster conducts checks on cars and they pull over any vehicles committing a road traffic offence, or driving like they have been drinking.

Just before midnight the pair pulled an estate car over in Telford as the driver sped past while the police car was waiting at a junction.

The driver and his passenger were known to Sergeant Williams and Inspector Webster and had previously been connected to drugs.

Sergeant Williams breathalysed the driver while Inspector Webster searched the passenger and the vehicle.

The search came back clear and the driver had five microgrammes of alcohol, but Sergeant Williams decided to do a drugs test as the driver's eyes were glazed and his reactions were slow.

That's when the driver popped something from his pocket into his mouth, which turned out to be a Subutex, commonly used to treat pain from drug addictions.

Sergeant Williams then had to wait 20 minutes for the substance to be completely clear from the driver's mouth before doing the drugs swipe.

After a further eight minute wait, the results come back positive for cocaine. The driver was arrested and taken to custody and his passenger starts the walks home.

The driver is booked into custody, gives his details and a sample of blood to be tested and is released under investigation.

When the results come back he will be informed of the reading and potentially given a court date if he is charged.

Inspector Webster said drug-driving now accounts for more arrests than drink-driving. He added: "We arrest more people for using drugs and driving than drinking, a lot of people drive under the influence of cannabis.

"The vast majority of people do behave themselves, it's just this time of year."

# MP and Sikhs are united in keeping residents warm

AN MP has joined forces with an action group to help keep residents warm this winter.

MP for Wolverhampton South East, Pat McFadden and United Sikhs delivered items like pillows, duvets, hats, gloves, scarves and coats.

Mr McFadden helped the group unload boxes at the Strengthening Families Hub in Bilston with the items ready to go out to those families most in need in his constituency.

He said: "This is a fantastic gesture in the run-up to Christmas. The boxes are packed with all of the winter essentials.

"I'd like to thank United Sikhs, the Strengthening Families hub and everybody else who has made this a success and I will continue to support them with their fantastic work".

Sun Kaur, from United Sikhs, said: "We knew there was a problem and we knew we had the capacity to help solve it. Rather than waiting for the calls for help, we approached the shelters.

"We requested lists of needs from each family. We believe we are blessed. As Sikhs, as neighbours, it is our privilege and duty to serve our brothers and sisters who need us right now."

Beverley with the officers from West Midlands Police Force Support Unit

# Force is with panto star Bev

SOUL star Beverley Knight was seen soaking up the Yuletide atmosphere at Christmas markets in Bimingham where she is enjoying starring in her first ever pantomime.

Officers from the West Midlands Police Force Support Unit came across the Wolverhampton-raised star at the Frankfurt Christmas Market in Birmingham.

The support unit posted an image with Beverley, with the comment: "Officers working the German markets bumped into Beverley Knight. Who could refuse this picture?"

## Albums

Beverley is starring in Cinderella, this year's Birmingham Hippodrome spectacular.

She is starring alongside Strictly Come Dancing 2016 finalist Danny Mac, Brum panto favourite Matt Slack, pop singer and Dancing On Ice star Suzanne Shaw and veteran comedy duo The Grumbleweeds. The show runs until January 28.

Beverley attended Woodfield Infant and Junior Schools and Highfields School, in Wolverhampton, while being brought up in a strict Pentecostal household. She has released eight studio albums and starred on the West End including a six-month run in The Bodyguard.

# Scholarship winner in meeting with King

**A STUDENT has met the King of Spain after securing a life-changing scholarship to attend the University of Cambridge.**

Shobhan Dhir, aged 24, from Wolverhampton, is set to study a masters degree in energy technologies at the university after winning a ScottishPower Foundation scholarship. The foundation is aimed at creating the future generation of energy experts.

It saw Shobhan formally receive his award at an international royal ceremony attended by King Felipe of Spain

Shobhan was among a group of 11 of the British scholarship winners flown over to the headquarters of ScottishPower's parent company Iberdrola in Madrid for the award ceremony, also attended by fellow scholarship winners from Spain, the USA, Mexico and Brazil.

Shobhan with the King

## Reception

The scholars were presented with their awards by Iberdrola's chairman, Ignacio Galan, and Ramón Castresana Sanchez, director of the Iberdrola's foundations committee, before they were received by King Felipe at a reception held at the Palacio de la Zarzuela.

The ScottishPower Foundation, the charitable arm of the energy provider, is supporting 27 British graduates by funding their enrolment fees and living allowances so that they can concentrate on pursuing careers in the fields of energy and the environment.

The scholarships have been delivered at seven institutions including the University of Cambridge, Imperial College London, Edinburgh University, Glasgow University, Strathclyde University, Liverpool University and the University of East Anglia.

This year, for the first time, two places for UK students have also been supported at the Universidad Pontificia de Comillas in Madrid.

Ann McKechin, trustee and executive officer of the ScottishPower Foundation, who attended the event, said: "We are delighted to support this group of very bright young people who we hope will be future leaders in the energy sector.

## Special

"The ceremony is suitable recognition of their achievement in winning a place against tough competition on the scholarship programme."

Shobhan said: "Meeting the King of Spain was one of the most special experiences of my life, and I will forever cherish the opportunity.

"Being a scholar has changed my life. I am studying the course I love at the university which does the research I am most interested in, and am now immersed in the renewables field, the field I most passionately care about, and this has only been possible through being a scholar."

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# Councils are given power to increase the tax bills

**COUNCILS in Staffordshire and the Black Country could raise council tax by up to 5.99 per cent after a Government cap was increased.**

Many local authorities across the area had already touted rises in their draft budget for 2018/19 but now they have been given the flexibility to go even further. Communities secretary Sajid Javid announced that all councils could increase council tax by up to 2.99 per cent – raising the cap by one per cent.

While those in charge of social care, which includes the four Black Country councils and Staffordshire County Council, could levy a further 2.99 per cent to be ring-fenced for care funding.

Most authorities in the area remained coy on their final proposed increases next year.

Only Wolverhampton Council, proposing a 3.99 per cent rise, effectively ruled out a further increase. Resources chief Councillor Andrew Johnson added: "Our view is that the Government should fund local government properly rather than expect us to pass on unrealistic council tax rises to the public to make up the shortfall."

While councils in Staffordshire were more open to taking advantage of the higher threshold. Cannock Chase District Council would only be entitled to raise taxes by 2.99 per cent as it does not directly oversee social care.

Dudley Council had initially proposed a 2.99 per cent increase including a one per cent precept for adult social care.

Finance chief Councillor Steve Clark said: "No decision will be made until next year."

Sandwell Council, which had warned residents of a possible 4.99 per cent rise from April, responded in a similar vein.

## Donation to upgrade city refuge

A BOILER, water tank and radiators at a charity refuge will be replaced thanks to a building society's donation.

Nationwide Building Society has been working with charity The Haven to upgrade its facilities after handing it a grant of almost £5,000. The Haven supports women and dependent children vulnerable to domestic violence, homelessness and abuse.

Matthew Wilkinson, customer service manager at Nationwide Wolverhampton, said: "It's a pleasure to support the Haven, who provide a hugely important and valuable service for those who need it most in Wolverhampton."

Laura Blackham, fundraising and communications lead at The Haven, added: "We were delighted to receive this generous grant."

## Goodyear in £9k aid for veterans

Cyril Barrett and Barrie Malia, centre, from the Goodyear fund with veterans Stephen Glass and Jean Lenior at Age UK

EX-SERVICEMEN and women will be able to seek confidential advice in the city thanks to a donation of more than £9,000 from former Goodyear workers.

Age UK will transform a kitchen at its base in Darlington Street into an information and advice room.

The charity will also replace its ageing stairlift to ensure there is reliable access to the new facility. The project is being funded by the donation from the Goodyear workers' 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent Fund. It will also pay for new computers.

Cyril Barrett, chairman of the fund, said: "Army veterans have put their lives on the line for us to give us our freedom. So this cause was on our wish-list and we are very proud to have made this donation."

The Goodyear workers' fund was built up over more than 30 years from sick and distress pay.

Donations have been made to dozens of causes in and around Wolverhampton.

Earlier this month Mr Barrett confirmed £1.5m had been donated to Compton Hospice to pay for a revamp. Goodyear shut its Wolverhampton plant in the summer.

## Report the children at risk – plea

A CHILDREN'S charity has seen the number of children it refers to police and councils for sexual abuse in Staffordshire and the Black Country increase from a year ago.

The NSPCC makes referrals when contacted by a member of the public concerned a child is being sexually abused. In all areas of the Black Country the number of referrals increased from 2015/16 to 2016/7.

In Walsall they rose from 11 to 24, in Sandwell 23 to 28, in Dudley 12 to 15 and in Wolverhampton 11 to 16. It was the same story in Staffordshire, where the number of referrals rose from 50 to 72.

### Devastating

The charity says a child is sexually abused when they are forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities, either physically or online.

John Cameron, head of helplines at the NSPCC said: "It is deeply worrying that so many children are potentially being exposed to such a devastating experience, but at the same time it also suggests that as a society we are much more alert to the risks and much more willing to come forward and share our concerns.

"It is vital that anyone who suspects a young person is in danger contacts the authorities."

## Preparing for a spring curtain up

REHEARSALS are underway for an Operatic Company's spring concert.

Tettenhall Operatic Company's Spring Concert is on Saturday, February 17 from 7.30pm and the from 2.30pm.

A version of The Mikado, tickets cost £10 and can be reserved by calling 01902 751729 or 07976 510089.


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### Dreamgirls

Inspired by the true story of Diana Ross and The Supremes, this Tony award-winning musical directed and choreographed by Casey Nicholaw (The Book of Mormon, Aladdin, Something Rotten!) tells the story of 'The Dreams', a young female singing trio from Chicago, who have to learn the hard way that the road to stardom has a lot of deep holes and deadly traps.

Songs include And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going, Listen, One Night Only and I Am Changing. Enjoy this fantastic production at the Savoy Theatre now!

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# Word to the wise: It's poet Benjamin

When Benjamin Zephaniah received the dates for his first tour in eight years two stood out. The performance poet who stars in Peaky Blinders and became friends with Nelson Mandela was thrilled to note gigs in Birmingham and Shrewsbury.

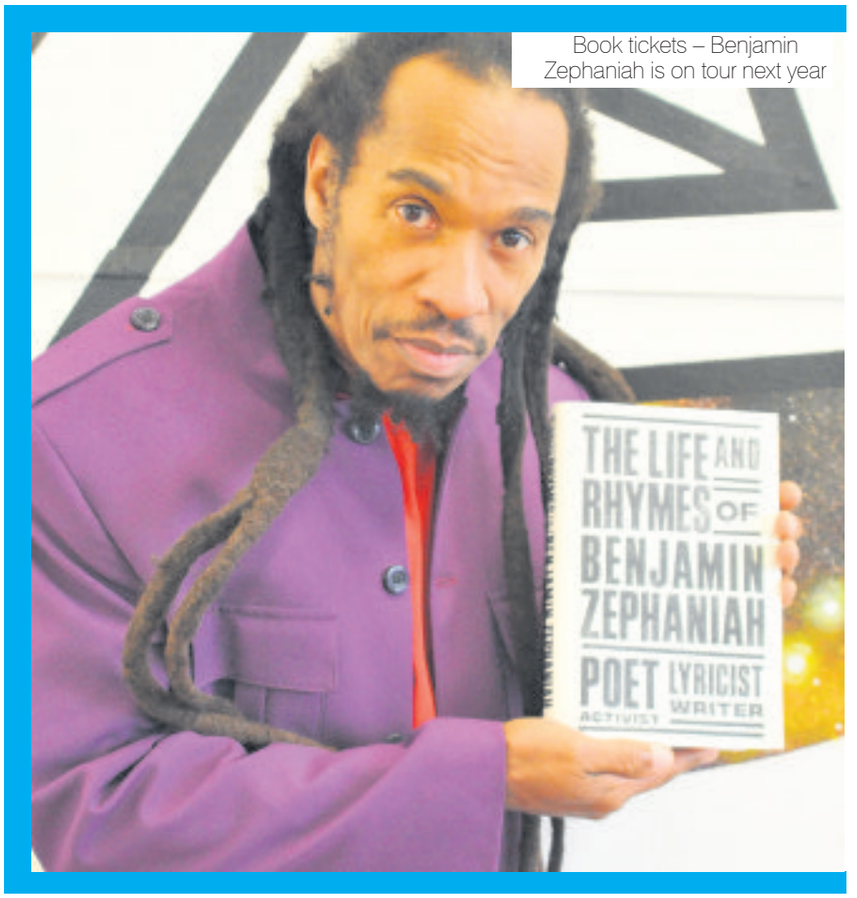
Birmingham was, of course, the city in which he was born and the place that honed both his political views and his determination to make something of his life. And Shrewsbury was a crossroads town – a place near to the north Shropshire borstal that provided him with a crossroads moment. It led to him reshaping his life and becoming one of Britain's best loved and most respected poets.

Benjamin or, to give him his rather grand title, Professor Benjamin Zephaniah, will hit the road in spring, playing Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn on June 14 and Birmingham's Town Hall on June 15. The shows will follow the release of his new autobiography, The Life And Rhymes of Benjamin Zephaniah, which will be published by Simon & Schuster in May.

He is looking forward to being back on the road and to see friendly faces from the West Midlands.

"Those places will always be important to me," he says. "I live in a different part of the country now but I'm regularly back in Birmingham. Peaky Blinders is centred on the city and my mother still lives there too.

"And Shrewsbury brings back very fond memories. I've played Theatre Severn before and always been given a very warm welcome. I'm looking forward to coming back."




Book tickets – Benjamin Zephaniah is on tour next year

## INDIVIDUAL

Benjamin's new book and tour chart our social history, as well as his own individual story.

He loved growing up in Handsworth, which he called the Jamaican capital of Europe. He learnt to rhyme at his mother's church but although his work become popular within the African-Caribbean and Asian community he thought the town was too small.

He was not satisfied preaching about the sufferings of black people to black people, so he sought a wider mainstream audience. At the age of 22 he headed to London where his first book Pen Rhythm was published by Page One Books. The book sold well, going into three editions but it was in performance that the Dub (Reggae) Poet would cause a revolution, a revolution that injected new life into the British poetry scene and attracted the interest of many mainstream publishers, many of whom had sent refusal letters to him only 12 months earlier. In the early 1980s when punks and Rastas were on the streets protesting about unemployment, homelessness and the National Front, Benjamin's poetry could be heard at demonstrations, outside police stations and on the dance floor.

His mission was to take poetry everywhere, and to popularise it by reaching people who didn't read books. His poetry was political, musical, radical and relevant. By the early 1990s, Benjamin had performed on every continent in the world, a feat he achieved in only one year, and he hasn't stopped performing and touring since. Nelson Mandela, after hearing Benjamin's tribute to him while he was in prison, requested an introduction to the poet that grew into a lifelong relationship, inspiring Benjamin's work with children in South Africa.

## CELEBRATION

Benjamin would also go on to be the first artist to record with The Wailers after the death of Bob Marley in a musical tribute to Nelson Mandela. His story is a celebration of a truly extraordinary life story which remarks upon the power of poetry and the importance of pushing boundaries with the arts.

Remarkably, the genesis of Benjamin's new book can be traced directly back to the last time he played in Shrewsbury. There, he met a writer friend who encouraged him to start mapping out the details of his life. The process took more years than Benjamin imagined, but he's delighted to have completed his autobiography and is looking forward to sharing his stories at local theatres.

He says: "The work is an autobiography and a social history. They say you mellow with age, but, if anything, I'm angrier than I've ever been. There is still injustice, there is still hate, there is still intolerance. The Life and Rhymes is about the race riots, the struggle to free Mandela, my career as writer and poet, and much more. It charts my course through a changing political and cultural landscape. I'd always been asked by a literary agent to write an autobiography but I guess I was too busy and just didn't have time. Then, in recent years, the time felt right. A lot has happened in my life but a lot has happened in the country too."

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

# Humdrum life? No way! I enjoy it

Ian has a blast as The Humdrum Express

Lacking excitement or variety; boringly monotonous' – it's not the usual way to describe yourself. Humdrum is also probably the last thing you'd want people to call your work, but Ian Passey doesn't care.

Known for his fast-paced lyrical style, Ian – better known as The Humdrum Express – is a man on a mission.

"I chose the name because my initial plan was to write mini kitchen sink dramas set to music," he says. "It can also be perceived as a boring newspaper [not the Star, we hope] or a commuter train, which fitted in nicely with my idea of writing about having to go to work every day."

Born in Quinton, he's spent most of his later life around the Wyre Forest. First of all in Bewdley, he now resides in Kidderminster.

"I'm currently a screen printer by day which allows me plenty of thinking time to come up with song ideas.

"I played in a few bands initially. Smedley, Jackpot and Swagger all gigged regularly across the Midlands during the 90s. After taking a break, I rediscovered a love for songwriting which eventually led to becoming The Humdrum Express. Ten years and five albums later, I'm enjoying it more than ever."

## FRUSTRATION

He counts the likes of John Cooper Clarke, Ian Dury and the Blockheads, Half Man Half Biscuit and Sleaford Mods amongst his influences. So it is little surprise satire and political swipes form a part of his repertoire.

"I don't really consider myself to be a political artist," says a man who describes his age as 'old enough to know better'. "Even the term 'social observer' sits uncomfortably but I suppose I set myself up for it. Reviews tend to mention the words 'acerbic' or 'sardonic' which always raises a smile. I like to mix humour with familiar cultural references, or create fictional characters eager to share their bitter-sweet tales of delusion."

So like those listed above, can we assume that Ian views the world with an air of frustration? "I suppose so. It was never a plan to write in this way but it's something that has evolved over time. It's also an outlet that gives me opportunities to meet others with a similar feeling of exasperation. There's a sense of making the most of difficult circumstances."

Ian is a keen member of his community and likes to take a look at the issues which affect his corner of Worcestershire, too. This stretches into his work in more ways than one. Take the video for his latest single, E-Petition. He used Stourbridge as the filming location. But anybody who might have been popping into town that day would have been in for a bit of a shock.

"The video for E-Petition was filmed on a Sunday afternoon. We had a cast of 60 people dressed as zombies rampaging through the High Street which was such fun to film.

"I really enjoy getting others involved and I'm always humbled by how many are willing to go along with the ideas with such enthusiasm." And as for the single itself, he added: "It's had prime time BBC 6 Music airplay and has been very well received."

## RESPECT

The E-Petition video also saw him rekindle a bromance with local musician, critic, actor and filmmaker Nick Townsend, who many may know as the frontman of Kidderminster band Weak13.

"It's great to see Weak13 doing well at the moment and he seems to be gaining huge respect for his filmmaking too. I can't think of anyone who works harder for fellow bands with his reviews, advice and, of course, his fantastic videos. We'll definitely team up again.

"I recently put a band together for a show at The Rose Theatre in Kidderminster featuring members of a couple of my favourite acts, Flying Ant Day and Sleuth. When schedules allow, we're planning four or five dates next year as a full band which I'm looking forward to immensely. I love playing my solo gigs but to have the option of doing something different with the songs is both fresh and inspiring.

"It's been a very busy year and I'm finally able to enjoy spending a bit of time writing again," he admits, amongst his promotion duties for E-Petition.

"I've got a couple of gigs with two of my lyrical heroes early in the new year, with Attila the Stockbroker in Stourbridge and Half Man Half Biscuit at The Robin 2. I've been lucky enough to play with them both before and they're ones I always look forward to both as a performer and a fan. I'm not sure whether a new album is immediately on the cards."

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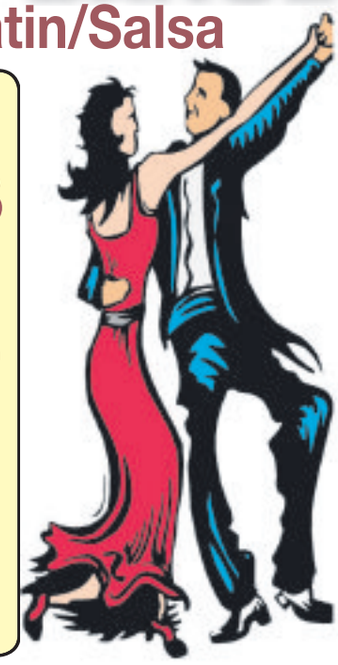

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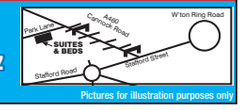

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# SATURDAY'S TV DECEMBER 30



## CHOICE

Alan Carr

**The Price Is Right (Channel 4, 8pm)**

It's been called the world's longest-running game show – it first appeared on US TV in 1956 – but The Price is Right hasn't been on UK TV screens in a decade. However, that's all about to change as Alan Carr brings the format back for this one-off special, which, if successful, could lead to a new series. The presenter is following in the footsteps of Leslie Crowther, Bruce Forsyth and Joe Pasquale as he invites a group of lucky contestants to ëcome on down!' and guess the price of a selection of weird and wonderful prizes. If they're lucky, they'll also get to spin the big wheel and go through to the showcase showdown. Carr will also be presiding over such classic Price is Right games as Time Flies, Plinko and Cliffhanger.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen. **11.30** Nigel Slater's New Year Suppers. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15 Film:** 102 Dalmatians. (2000) **2.50 Film:** Penguins of Madagascar. (2014) **4.10** Final Score. **5.30** BBC News. **5.40** Regional Programme. **5.50** Celebrity Mastermind.

**6.20 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a Radio 2-themed edition of the unorthodox quiz, featuring Jo Whiley, Jeremy Vine, Zoe Ball, Michael Ball, Ken Bruce, Vanessa Feltz and Craig Charles. (R)

**7.10 A Christmas Carol Goes Wrong.** The Olivier Award-winning Mischief Theatre Company returns to the small screen with another festive spoof. After mauling JM Barrie's classic Peter Pan last year, disaster-prone am-dram troupe the Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society has been blacklisted by the BBC. Determined not to accept the ban without a fight, the group resolves to force itself back onto the screen by hijacking the jewel in the corporation's Christmas crown – a live production of A Christmas Carol, staged by an infinitely more esteemed cast. What follows is an anarchic hour of TV in which the performers quickly find themselves out of their depth, with no idea how to direct a live studio, or handle the special effects necessary to bring Dickens' perennial festive favourite to life. Plus, there's the small matter of the real cast, who are less than impressed at having their screen-time stolen by a band of inept replacements.

**8.00 Film: Avengers: Age of Ultron.** (2015) Premiere. The superhero team faces a threat from within when Iron Man creates an artificial intelligence to take their place protecting the world. The android grows resentful of his creators, and decides his mission is best accomplished by wiping out the human race. Meanwhile, a pair of vengeful superpowered twins seeks to turn the Avengers against each other. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Robert Downey Jr.

**10.10 BBC News**; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

**10.30 Match of the Day.**

**11.55 The NFL Show.**

**12.25 Film:** Dinner for Schmucks. (2010) **2.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.20** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.35** Birds of Paradise: The Ultimate Quest. (R) **7.35 Film:** Tinker Bell and the Pirate Fairy. (2014) **8.45** The Big Family Cooking Showdown. (R) **9.45** Snow Leopard – Beyond the Myth: Natural World. (R) **10.35** Jane Austen: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **11.35 Film:** Mansfield Park. (1999) **1.20** The World's Most Extraordinary Homes. (R) **2.20** Six Robots & Us. (R) **3.20 Film:** All About Eve. (1950) Drama, starring Bette Davis. **5.35** Talking Pictures: Barry Norman.

**6.20 Film: Alice in Wonderland.** (2010) A 19-year-old Alice returns to the magical land, having forgotten her previous adventures. She finds the tyrannical Red Queen has begun a reign of terror that can only be ended by slaying the monstrous Jabberwocky – a task she is seemingly destined to attempt. Tim Burton's fantasy adventure based on Lewis Carroll's novels, starring Mia Wasikowska, Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter and Anne Hathaway.

**8.00 Dad's Army.** Mainwaring orders his blundering platoon to guard the bank's money until repairs on the bomb-damaged vault are completed. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)

**8.30 Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs.** New series. Paul Murton begins an exploration of the nation's lochs by travelling through the wilds surrounding Loch Etive, taking in the Falls of Lora and Rannoch Moor.

**9.00 Feud: Bette and Joan.** As the 35th Academy Awards approach, Joan enlists the aid of Hedda to help thwart Bette's chances of claiming a record-breaking third Oscar for her role in Baby Jane.

**9.45 Feud: Bette and Joan.** Warner pressures Aldrich to reunite his original Baby Jane team for a follow-up "hag horror" picture. Meanwhile, a face from Joan's past poses a threat.

**10.30 Film: Hush, Hush, Sweet Charlotte.** (1964) A reclusive Southern belle trying to save her family home is driven to the brink of madness by memories of her traumatic past. Thriller, with Bette Davis and Olivia De Havilland.

**12.40** Absolutely Fashion: Inside British Vogue. (R) **1.40** Sign Zone: Mary, Mel & Sue's Big Christmas Thank You. (R) **2.40** Rick Stein's Road to Mexico. (R) **3.40** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister Six. **7.20** The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.30** The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.45** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.15** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **8.55** Scrambled!'s Shiniest Showdown Ever. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Saturday Morning with James Martin at Christmas. **11.25** Endeavour. (R) **1.15** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** The Chase. (R) **2.30 Film:** Three Men and a Baby. (1987) Comedy, starring Tom Selleck, Ted Danson and Steve Guttenberg. **4.25 Film:** Despicable Me 2. (2013) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Steve Carell.

**6.10 Regional Programme;** Weather.

**6.20 ITV News**; Weather.

**6.30 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway Presents – Who Shot Simon Cowell?** The complete series of sketches from the 2016 run of the entertainment show.

**7.00 Guess the Star.** Jonathan Ross hosts a special one-off game show in which three teams of celebrities are challenged to guess the true identity of various famous faces, who have been transformed into their musical heroes for a special performance. Team Diversity, made up of Jordan Banjo, Perri Kiely and Sam Craske take on Anthony Cotton, Catherine Tyldesley and Sally Dynevor of Team Coronation Street, and Team Daytime, represented by Eamonn Holmes, Stacey Solomon and Judge Rinder.

**8.00 Film: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1.** (2010) The dark lord Voldemort rises to ultimate power over the magical world, so the teenage wizard and his friends set out on a mission to find the magical horcruxes – artefacts containing parts of the evil wizard's soul that hold the key to destroying him. The first half of the two-part conclusion to the fantasy saga, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Ralph Fiennes, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint.

**10.40 ITV News**; Weather.

**11.00 Film: The Mask.** (1994) Comic-book comedy, starring Jim Carrey and Cameron Diaz.

**12.50** Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**7.05 Film:** Bridge to Terabithia. (2007) Fantasy drama, starring Josh Hutcherson. **8.50** Lego Masters. (R) **9.55** The Simpsons. (R) **10.25** The Simpsons. (R) **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** We're Going on a Bear Hunt. (R) **12.20** Born Silly. (R) **12.50 Film:** Ever After: A Cinderella Story. (1998) Romantic drama, starring Drew Barrymore and Dougray Scott. **3.15 Film:** Pride & Prejudice. (2005) Period drama, starring Keira Knightley. **5.40** Channel 4 News. **5.55 Film:** Crocodile Dundee II. (1988) The rugged Australian adventurer sets out to save his reporter girlfriend from New York drug dealers. Having rescued her from their clutches, he realises they will soon be coming after him – so he decides to even the odds by luring them to the Outback for a final showdown. Comedy adventure sequel, starring Paul Hogan, Linda Kozlowski, John Meillon and Charles S Dutton.

**8.00 The Price Is Right.** Alan Carr invites five lucky members of the studio audience to 'Come on Down' for a special edition of the world's longest-running TV game show.

**9.00 Film: The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1.** (2014) Katniss Everdeen is brought to a secretive underground society following the destruction of the televised deathmatch. She becomes the figurehead of a revolution against the despotic Panem regime, while her friend Peeta remains a captive of its tyrannical president. Part one of the two-part conclusion to the sci-fi adventure series, starring Jennifer Lawrence, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Julianne Moore and Donald Sutherland.

**11.20 Film: Speed.** (1994) An LAPD cop discovers a psychotic criminal has planted a bomb on a crowded bus, primed to go off if the vehicle drops below 50mph. He boards the vehicle and helps a hapless passenger who has been forced to take the wheel and keep a constant speed to avoid a disaster. Action thriller, starring Keanu Reeves, Sandra Bullock, Dennis Hopper and Jeff Daniels.

**1.25** Speed with Guy Martin. (R) **2.20** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Brody finds out that Maggie has cancer. **4.05** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **5.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **5.25** Kirstie's Handmade Christmas. (R) **5.45 Film:** The Four Musketeers. (1974)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.15** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.50 Film:** The African Queen. (1951) **12.55 Film:** Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes. (1984) Drama, starring Christopher Lambert. **3.30** Live Aviva Premiership Rugby Union. Harlequins v Northampton Saints (Kick-off 4.00pm).

**6.05 World's Strongest Man 2017.** Action from the fourth heat in Botswana, which featured Britain's Eddie Hall – a four-time winner of Britain's Strongest Man who finished third in the 2016 competition.

**7.00 Blind Date.** Paul O'Grady returns as host for another series of the revived dating show. As ever, three singletons are challenged to prove their worth as romance prospects to a potential suitor by their personality alone. In this opening edition, the singles bring their dogs along in the hopes of scoring some "puppy love", and self-described diva Devorshka must choose between a plumber, a banker and an accountant.

**8.00 Greatest Celebrity Wind-Ups Ever!** New series. Joe Pasquale narrates a special documentary celebrating some of the greatest pranks celebrities have managed to play on each other. Highlights include Ant and Dec setting up Simon Cowell in a classic Saturday Night Takeaway moment he would probably rather forget, and Eurovision winner Cheryl Baker falling victim to one of Noel Edmonds' "Gotcha" tricks. Ben Hanlin talks viewers through an elaborate hoax he pullled on former King of the Jungle Joe Swash, and more practical jokes come courtesy of Freddie Flintoff, Little Mix, and Game of Thrones' pint-sized trickster Maisie Williams.

**9.00 5 News Weekend.**

**9.05 Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Middlesbrough v Aston Villa at the Riverside Stadium, Birmingham City v Leeds United at St Andrew's.

**10.15 Football on 5: Goal Rush.**

**10.45 How Magic Changed TV.** The story of magic on television. (R)

**12.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Our Dream Hotel. **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.35** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **5.50** Access. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**

**7.00** Tutankhamun: The Truth Uncovered **7.30** Planet Earth II: A World of Wonder **9.00** Spiral **11.05** 2017: A Year in the Life of a Year **11.35** Glen Campbell: The Rhinestone Cowboy **12.35** Chuck Berry in Concert **1.35** Tutankhamun: The Truth Uncovered **2.35** Planet Earth II: A World of Wonder **3.35** Close

**ITV2**

**2.20** Mr Bean **3.20 Film:** Bean (1997) **4.25** FYI Daily **4.30 Film:** Bean (1997) **5.10 Film:** Ella Enchanted (2004) **6.15** FYI Daily **6.20 Film:** Ella Enchanted (2004) **7.00 Film:** Legally Blonde (2001) **8.00** FYI Daily **8.05 Film:** Legally Blonde (2001) **9.00 Film:** Bridesmaids (2011) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Bridesmaids (2011) **11.35** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** Celebrity Juice: Bestest of the Unseenest Bits **2.25** Celebrity Juice: The Special Special **3.15** Through the Keyhole **4.10** Educating Joey Essex: Football Fever

**ITV3**

**1.10** The Making of The Sound of Music Live **1.40 Film:** Bugsy Malone (1976) **2.40** FYI Daily **2.45 Film:** Bugsy Malone (1976) **3.45 Film:** The Wizard of Oz (1939) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50 Film:** The Wizard of Oz (1939) **5.50** Prince Harry and Meghan: Truly, Madly, Deeply **6.55** Kate: The Making of a Modern Queen **7.55** Diana: A Life After Death **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.00** Housewife, 49 **2.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.35** Wycliffe

**ITV4**

**11.20** Ironside **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Newbury. **4.00 Film:** 633 Squadron (1964) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10 Film:** 633 Squadron (1964) **5.55 Film:** Aces High (1976) **7.00** FYI Daily **7.05 Film:** Aces High (1976) **8.15 Film:** Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) **9.15** FYI Daily **9.20 Film:** Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) **10.00 Film:** Swordfish (2001) **11.00** FYI Daily **11.05 Film:** Swordfish (2001) **12.05 Film:** The Dirty Dozen (1967) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10 Film:** The Dirty Dozen (1967) **3.05** The Classic Car Show **3.55** Goodwood Festival of Speed **4.45** Goodwood Revival **5.30** Tommy Cooper

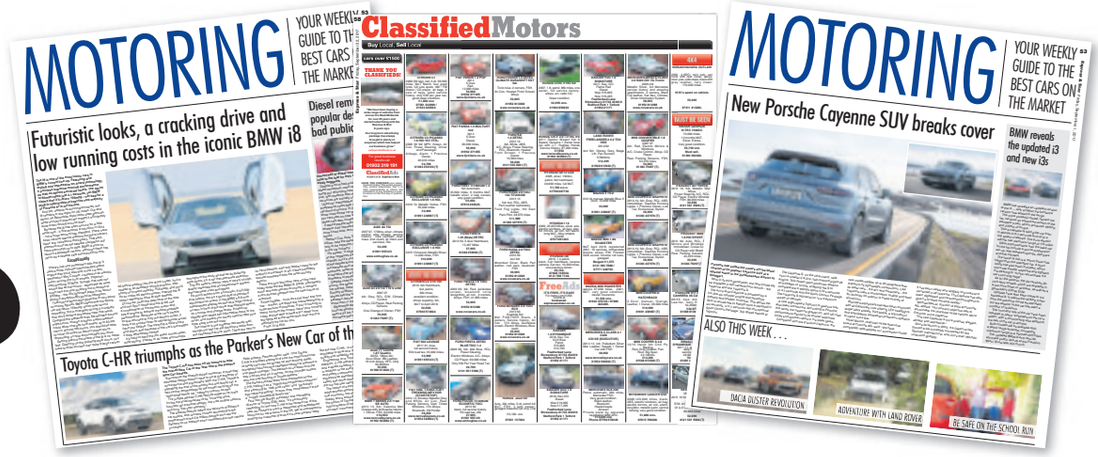
**E4**

**11.15 Film:** Dr Dolittle (1998) **1.00** Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas **1.30 Film:** Toy Story OF TERROR! (2013) **2.00 Film:** Toy Story That Time Forgot (2014) **2.30** Toy Story Toons **3.00** The Big Bang Theory: Big Bang A-Z: U Is for Underpants **3.30** The Big Bang Theory: Big Bang A-Z: V Is for Valentino the Rabbit **4.00** The Big Bang Theory: Big Bang A-Z: W Is for Weddings


EVERY FRIDAY!

MNA

New Car?

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Express & Star

## CHOICE

Jools Holland

**Jools' Annual Hootenanny (BBC2, 11.20pm)**
Jools Holland presents his 25th annual New Year party, headlined this year by Ed Sheeran, who performs tracks from his recent album Divide with the Rhythm & Blues Orchestra, as well as a cover of a classic British rock song. Other acts taking to the stage tonight include Mavis Staples, Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, Jessie Ware, Soul II Soul, Beth Ditto, the Beat starring Dave Wakelin, George McCrae, Jose Feliciano and Ruby Turner, while the Pipes & Drums of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards will be on hand at midnight to play in the new year.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **8.00** Match of the Day. (R) **9.25 Film:** Bolt. (2008) **10.55 Film:** The Croods. (2013) **12.25** BBC News; Weather. **12.40** Comic Relief 2017: 'Twas the Thanks After Red Nose Day. (R) **1.40 Film:** Bedknobs and Broomsticks. (1971) **3.35** Songs of Praise: The Big Sing. **4.05** Top of the Pops New Year Special. **5.05** Attenborough and the Giant Elephant. (R)

**6.05 BBC News.**

**6.20 Regional Programme.**

**6.30 Celebrity Mastermind.** Sky News political editor Faisal Islam, comedian Lloyd Langford, Made in Chelsea's Ollie Locke and Saturday Mash-Up presenter Yasmin Evans put their knowledge to the test.

**7.00 Countryfile.** Adam Henson takes a trip to New Zealand, where he helps with a cattle muster, goes on the hunt for a rare breed of goat, and witnesses large-scale sheep farming.

**8.00 Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents a special episode from the set of EastEnders celebrating the history of film, theatre, music and television, in which iconic props are brought in to be valued.

**9.00 The Real Marigold on Tour.** Rosemary Shrager, Sheila Ferguson, Paul Nicholas and Dennis Taylor explore Thailand, where they try their hands at tai chi and take part in a Ladyboys show. Last in the series.

**10.00 BBC News**; Weather.

**10.20 The Graham Norton Show.** Graham is joined by the stars of The Greatest Showman, Hugh Jackman, Zendaya and Zac Efron, as well as Gary Oldman and Suranne Jones. With music by the Leading Ladies.

**11.20 Nile Rodgers & Chic: Good Times 2017.** The musician and his funk band perform live as the year draws to a close. Featuring footage of the traditional New Year's fireworks display, choreographed to fit a medley of music.

**11.55 New Year's Eve Fireworks 2017.** The annual celebratory New Year's Eve fireworks display, live from the Thames Embankment in London.

**12.10** Nile Rodgers & Chic: Good Times 2018. **12.50** Michael McIntyre: Happy & Glorious. (R) **1.50 Film:** Old School. (2003) **3.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **3.25** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.35** Birds of Paradise: The Ultimate Quest. (R) **7.35 Film:** Mars Needs Moms. (2011) Animated sci-fi adventure, with the voice of Seth Robert Dusky. **9.00** The Big Family Cooking Showdown. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The A to Z of TV Cooking. (R) **12.15 Film:** Shall We Dance? (2004) Romantic comedy, starring Richard Gere and Susan Sarandon. **1.55** Six Robots & Us. (R) **2.55** Talking Pictures: Anthony Hopkins. (R) **3.40 Film:** 84 Charing Cross Road. (1987) Romantic drama, starring Anne Bancroft and Anthony Hopkins. **5.15 Film:** Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time. (2010) A prince framed for murdering his adoptive father must stop a magical weapon from falling into the wrong hands. Fantasy adventure, starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Gemma Arterton.

**7.00 Robot Wars Special.** More motorised mayhem as radio-controlled robots vie for places in the final battle arena.

**8.00 Film: Into the Woods.** (2014) Premiere. A wicked witch agrees to lift a curse on a young couple if they will help restore her once beautiful looks. Musical fantasy, based on Stephen Sondheim's hit stage show, which entwines the fairy tale stories of Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk and Rapunzel. Starring Meryl Streep, James Corden and Emily Blunt, with a cameo by Johnny Depp as the Big Bad Wolf.

**10.00 Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Crystal Palace v Manchester City and West Bromwich Albion v Arsenal.

**10.50 Live at the Apollo.** Henning Wehn hosts tonight's show, which features performances from Lucy Porter and Guz Khan.

**11.20 Jools' Annual Hootenanny.** Jools Holland presents his 25th annual New Year party, featuring performances from Ed Sheeran, Mavis Staples, Beth Ditto, Ruby Turner, Jessie Ware and Soul II Soul.

**1.20** Best of Glastonbury 2017. Jo Whiley and Mark Radcliffe introduce highlights from the festival at Worthy Farm in Somerset. (R) **3.25** Sign Zone: Countryfile. John Craven, Anita Rani and Matt Baker present a special festive episode. (R) **4.20** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Ultimate Spider-Man Vs The Sinister Six. **7.20** The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.30** The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.45** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.15** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30** A Grizzly New Year's Tale: The Crystal Eye. (R) **8.55** Scrambled! Record Breakers. **9.25** Countrywise. (R) **9.50 Film:** Casino Royale. (1967) Spoof James Bond adventure, starring David Niven. **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** All Star Musicals. (R) **2.20** A Very Royal Wedding. (R) **3.30** A Right Royal Quiz. **4.30** Victoria. (R)

**6.25 Regional Programme;** Weather.

**6.35 ITV News**; Weather.

**6.50 Cannonball Splash Hits.** Andrew Flintoff presents highlights from the first series of the action-packed game show, in which 24 contestants are tasked with traversing a series of water-based challenges and custom-made inflatable obstacles, each designed to test speed, accuracy, height and distance. With contributions from regulars Frankie Bridge, Radzi Chinyanganya, Ryan Hand and Maya Jama.

**7.50 Film: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2.** (2011) The young wizard continues his search for the artefacts containing fragments of the dark lord Voldemort's soul. Time is running out, as the evil sorcerer is aware of Harry's mission, and marshals his forces for a final, devastating attack on Harry and his friends at Hogwarts school. Conclusion of the fantasy saga, with Daniel Radcliffe, Ralph Fiennes, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson and Alan Rickman.

**10.15 The Real Full Monty.** Alexander Armstrong and Ashley Banjo lead a group of male celebrities as they recreate the famous striptease from The Full Monty to raise awareness of men's health issues. (R)

**11.45 ITV News**; Weather; New Year Bongs.

**12.10 Film:** Parenthood. (1989) Comedy drama, starring Steve Martin. **2.15** Take Me Out. Four more suitors seek the approval of Paddy McGuinness's 30 single women. (R) **3.20** Through the Keyhole. (R) **4.10** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.

## CHANNEL 4

**7.35** Frasier. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.25** F1 2017: Hamilton's Record Breaking Season. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55 Film:** We Bought a Zoo. (2011) Fact-based comedy drama, starring Matt Damon. **4.20** Channel 4 News. **4.25** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **5.25** Britain's Wildest Weather 2017. (R)

**7.00 Amazing Spaces Snow and Ice Special.** Architect George Clarke and master craftsman Will Hardie find out how Norway, a country with some of the harshest weather on the planet, has become a leader in architectural design. Buildings include a treehouse that can withstand nine tons of snowfall and gale force winds, and an ice hotel complete with 30 rooms, a bar and even a snow chapel. Plus, a moveable home that has kept members of its community safe for hundreds of years. (R)

**8.00 The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Christmas Special.** Richard Ayoade hosts the game show, inviting the Saturdays and Strictly star Mollie King, gold medal-winning athletes Ellie Simmonds and Nicola Adams, Made in Chelsea's Ollie Locke and Murder In Successville comedian Tom Davis to take his golden hand and tackle a number of physical, skill, mystery and mental challenges. Their aim is to win the elusive crystals – and the more they win, the more time they get in the Crystal Dome, where they will be raising money for Stand Up for Cancer. With appearances from Adam Buxton and Jessica Hynes. (R)

**9.00 Alan Carr's New Year Specstacular 2017.** The presenter hosts his annual New Year's party, with a mixture of sketches and party games. Alan is joined by guests Big Narstie, Jonnie Peacock, Keith Lemon, Caroline Flack, Alex Brooker, Binky Felstead, Tom Davis, Charlotte Dawson, Kim Woodburn and Liam Charles, with music from Stefflon Don and Pete Tong, with Becky Hill and The Heritage Orchestra, conducted by Jules Buckley.

**11.00 Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2017.** Jimmy Carr hosts a comedy quiz looking back at the past 12 months. (R)

**1.00** Gogglebox 2017. (R) **2.55** The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.15** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.25** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.35** Wissper. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.45** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.55** Simon. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.30** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.45** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.55** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.35** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.25** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.25** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Winter in Alaska. (R) **12.55 Film:** Three Men and a Little Lady. (1990) Comedy sequel, starring Tom Selleck. **2.55 Film:** Groundhog Day. (1993) Comedy, starring Bill Murray. **3.55** 5 News Update. **4.00 Film:** Groundhog Day. (1993) Concluded. **4.55** 5 News Weekend. **5.00 Film:** The Lego Movie. (2014) Premiere. Animated comedy.

**7.00 The Lego Story: Brick by Brick.** Documentary charting the history of the toy, looking at how the seemingly humble bricks have been developed and adapted over the decades into one of the world's most popular brands. (R)

**8.00 World's Strongest Man 2017.** Action from the fifth heat in Botswana, which featured Lithuania's Zydrunas Savickas, a four-time winner who was returning from an injury that kept him out of the 2016 event.

**8.50 5 News Weekend.**

**9.00 All New When TV Goes Horribly Wrong.** Richard Bacon narrates a compilation of disasters befalling TV presenters, featuring mishaps involving Phillip Schofield, Anne Diamond, Denis Tuohy, Ross King, Charlotte Crosby and Stephen Bear, as well as other presenters from around the world. The show looks back at technical problems on the opening night of BBC2 and some unexpected nudity on daytime TV.

**11.55 Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights.** Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present action from the 12th round of matches, including Bath v Wasps, Gloucester v Sale Sharks and Saracens v Worcester Warriors.

**12.50** SuperCasino. **3.10** World's Strongest Man 2017. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**

**7.00** Dancing the Nutcracker – Inside the Royal Ballet **8.30** Victoria Wood: Seen on TV **10.00** Detectorists **1.00** Victoria Wood: Seen on TV **2.30** David Attenborough's Zoo Quest in Colour **4.00** Close

**ITV2**

**12.25** You've Been Framed! Top 100 Animals **1.30** Mr Bean **2.30 Film:** Happy Feet Two (2011) **3.30** FYI Daily **3.35 Film:** Happy Feet Two (2011) **4.35 Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **5.35** FYI Daily **5.40 Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **6.40 Film:** New Year's Eve (2011) **7.40** FYI Daily **7.45 Film:** New Year's Eve (2011) **9.00 Film:** Sherlock Holmes (2009) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Sherlock Holmes (2009) **11.35** Family Guy **2.00** American Dad! **2.55** Celebrity Juice: Bestest Bits 2017

**ITV3**

**11.55** FYI Daily **12.00 Film:** Carry On Doctor (1967) **12.50 Film:** Carry On Again Doctor (1969) **1.55** FYI Daily **2.00 Film:** Carry On Again Doctor (1969) **2.35 Film:** The Likely Lads (1976) **3.35** FYI Daily **3.40 Film:** The Likely Lads (1976) **4.25** Lewis **6.25** Diana, Our Mother: Her Life and Legacy **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** My Boy Jack **12.00** Christmas Epic Fails **1.00** The Knock **3.55** Jane Eyre

**ITV4**

**1.55 Film:** Lawman (1971) **2.55** FYI Daily **3.00 Film:** Lawman (1971) **4.00 Film:** The Train Robbers (1973) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10 Film:** The Train Robbers (1973) **5.50 Film:** Jeremiah Johnson (1972) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00 Film:** Jeremiah Johnson (1972) **8.05 Film:** Jaws: The Revenge (1987) **9.10** FYI Daily **9.15 Film:** Jaws: The Revenge (1987) **10.00 Film:** Total Recall (1990) **11.00** FYI Daily **11.05 Film:** Total Recall (1990) **12.10 Film:** Species III (2004) **1.10** FYI Daily **1.15 Film:** Species III (2004)

**E4**

**3.00** The Big Bang Theory: Big Bang A-Z: F Is for Fun with Flags **3.30** The Big Bang Theory: Big Bang A-Z: G Is for Geology **4.00** The Big Bang Theory: Big Bang A-Z: H Is for Hoarding **4.30** The Big Bang Theory: Big Bang A-Z: I Is for Intimacy **5.00** The Big Bang Theory: Big Bang A-Z: J Is for Junior Professor **5.30** The Big Bang Theory: Big Bang A-Z: K Is for Knocking **6.00** The Big Bang Theory: Big Bang A-Z: L Is for Laundry **6.30** The Big Bang Theory: Big Bang A-Z: M Is for Meemaw **7.00 Film:** I, Robot (2004) **9.00 Film:** Red (2010) **11.15** The Inbetweeners **2.40** 8 Out of 10 Cats: More Best Bits **3.20** Hollyoaks

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Wolverhampton Chronicle Thursday, December 28, 2017

# PICK OF THE WEEK

## FILM CHOICES

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**
**Spectre, ITV, 8pm**
James Bond goes rogue after receiving a cryptic message that sets him on the trail of a secretive criminal network. While his colleagues face a new threat closer to home, Bond embarks on a globetrotting journey in search of the elusive mastermind behind the syndicate - whom he discovers may have links to his own past. Spy thriller, starring Daniel Craig, Christoph Waltz, Lea Seydoux and Ralph Fiennes. (2015)

**TUESDAY**
**Clueless, ITV, 11.10pm**
A rich high-school student uses all her charm and financial clout to boost an awkward new pupil's image, but soon finds she has created a monster - while her own popularity suffers in the process. Comedy inspired by Jane Austen's Emma, starring Alicia Silverstone, Stacey Dash, Brittany Murphy and Paul Rudd. (1995)

Spectre, New Year's Day, ITV, 8pm

**WEDNESDAY**
**Pretty Woman, BBC1, 10.45pm**
A ruthless millionaire hires a prostitute while on a business trip. Realising she may be useful in helping him keep up a successful appearance, he pays her to accompany him for a week as he associates with the rich and powerful - but falls in love despite their many differences. Romantic comedy, starring Richard Gere and Julia Roberts. (1990)

**THURSDAY**
**Deadly Stage Fright, Channel 5, 3.20pm**
Years after a violent attack sent her into retirement, opera soprano Sarah Conrad agrees to a comeback event, but when she steps back into the limelight, a series of new dangers threaten to keep her from ever singing again. Thriller, starring Jordan Ladd, Brody Hutzler and Alan Pietruszewski. (2017)

**FRIDAY**
**The Bourne Legacy, Channel 4, 11.10pm**
A government assassin goes on the run when his employers try to bury their dark secrets by having him killed. Spy thriller sequel, with Jeremy Renner and Rachel Weisz. (2012)

## Trying to untie himself from the bonds of organised crime

It may not have the most gripping or serious-sounding drama available this Christmas, but McMafia has its roots in truth and is set to keep us gripped long after the turkey has run out and the tinsel is beginning to droop.

Writers Hossein Amini and James Watkins were inspired by the hard-hitting 2008 non-fiction book McMafia: Seriously Organised Crime by Misha Glenny, which examines various mafia organisations across the globe.

"I am a huge fan of The Godfather, The Sopranos and, more recently, Narcos," claims Glenny. "Hoss and James's brilliant reworking of McMafia takes this tradition onto a global canvas by revealing the immense possibilities open to an ambitious Russian crime family in an interconnected world."

Watkins, who also directs, adds: "The annual turnover of transnational organised crime is estimated at $870 billion. Misha Glenny's brilliant book casts fascinating light on that huge hidden world and shows how terrifyingly close it is to us all.

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to bring that captivating underworld to BBC One."

Heading the cast is James Norton, who seems determined not to trade on his handsome looks by tackling as many varied roles as he possibly can.

For many of us, he first came to prominence as the criminal Tommy Lee Royce in Happy Valley, a chilling character who sent shivers down the spine while terrorising the family of Sarah Lancashire's troubled police sergeant Catherine Cawood.

He couldn't have been more different in Grantchester, the period crime drama based on the books by James Runcie. Norton plays Sidney Chambers, a jazz-loving vicar with a difficult love life who eases his boredom by helping a local police detective solve puzzling crimes. It was the first time he'd been the leading man on TV, and the exposure thrust him into the limelight.

Since then Norton has portrayed tragic hero Prince Andrei in the BBC's lavish but ultimately disappointing adaptation of Tolstoy's War and Peace. He's also maintained a stage career, and is currently appearing in a production of Amy Herzog's acclaimed play Belleville at the Donmar Warehouse.

In the eight-part McMafia he plays Alex Godman, the English-raised son of Russian exiles with a background in organised crime.

Alex has spent his entire life trying to step out from under the shadow of that violent past, forging his own career as a legitimate businessman and setting up home with his girlfriend Rebecca. However, his family's former life is about to raise its ugly ahead once again, forcing him to take drastic measures to protect those he loves.

What starts out as a story of survival and revenge turns into an epic struggle for Alex to escape the shackles of the Godman clan once and for all, denying a long-buried part of himself in the process.

James Norton stars in McMafia, New Year's Day, BBC1, 9pm

# BEST OF THE REST

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**
**Grandpa's Great Escape**
**BBC1, 6.55pm**
It's now almost traditional for an adaptation of a children's book by David Walliams to pop up over the festive season. The Boy in the Dress, Mr Stink, Billionaire Boy and Gangster Granny have all appeared so far, with Grandpa's Great Escape the latest to make it to the small screen. Tom Courtenay takes the lead role of Grandpa, a Second World War flying ace who must move into old people's home Twilight Towers when his Alzheimer's disease becomes too difficult for his family to cope with full-time. Miss Dandy runs the establishment, but it's clear she isn't exactly a kindly soul, so it's up to Grandpa and his grandson Jack to plot an escape that may also bring the old man face-to-face with his beloved Spitfire. Kit Connor, Jennifer Saunders and Walliams himself are among the supporting cast.

**TUESDAY**
**Celebrity Big Brother: Live Launch**
**Channel 5, 9pm**
And so it begins. The 21st series of Celebrity Big Brother in which another collection of alleged stars co-habit in the Orwellian abode and attempt to get along. Of course many of them won't, and the result should make for interesting TV. Okay, chances are you won't recognise many of the so-called famous faces, but even the recent I'm A Celebrity struggled to land big names for their show, so expect more obscure reality show veterans to grace the pre fab along with the occasional genuine celebrity. Sarah Harding won the last series, but who wins CBB 21? You decide.

**WEDNESDAY**
**Tom Kerridge's Lose Weight For Good**
**BBC2, 8pm**
New series. Chef Tom Kerridge recruits and mentors a group of struggling dieters, offering them advice on ways they can lose weight with long-term results. After losing over 12 stone himself through a combination of diet and exercise, Tom uses his own personal experiences to help the 13 dieters reduce their calorie intake, demonstrating how they can create their own simple, low-calorie dishes. Meeting the group for the first time, Tom lays out what they can expect from their weight-loss journey, and begins with tackling the issue of comfort eating, a problem that many of the group struggle with.

**Miriam's Big American Adventure**
**BBC1, 9pm**
The irrepressible Miriam Margolyes is no stranger to America, having lived in LA for 16 years. While there, the actress saw the US as a liberal and welcoming country that she came to love. But then 2016 happened, leaving Miriam wondering if she really knew it at all. In this three-part series, Miriam is journeying nearly 1,000 miles from Chicago to New Orleans, immersing herself in communities along the way as she gets to know the people of middle America. She starts in Illinois, where socialite and ex-Playboy bunny Candace Jordan persuades her to undergo a beauty salon makeover. Miriam also visits Chicago's troubled south side where she talks to ex-gang member SP, who cannot leave the area for fear of rival gang shootings. Finally, she attends a citizenship ceremony in Indianapolis where she hears how José, who left his village in the Congo, has become one of America's newest and proudest citizens.

Death in Paradise, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

**THURSDAY**
**Death in Paradise**
**BBC1, 9pm**
New series. After being introduced at the end of the last series, Ardal O'Hanlon returns for his first full series as Detective Inspector Jack Mooney, working on the Caribbean island of Saint Marie, where the sun shines all day and it seems half the residents are killers-in-waiting. The DI and his team are tested when a hotel billionaire's fiancée falls from a balcony the day before her lavish wedding. Everything points to suicide - except for the fact that the victim only painted one fingernail. Danny John-Jules and Josephine Jobert co-star, with guest appearances from Denis Lawson, Elizabeth Berrington and Jemima Rooper.

**FRIDAY**
**Will & Grace**
**Channel 5, 10pm**
New series. The US sitcom about a man and woman sharing a flat - and a platonic relationship - returns after an 11-year break. Politics come between Will and Grace when he crushes on a Republican senator and she gets a new interior design contract - for the White House itself. Eric McCormack and Debra Messing star.


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# Just blown away by this Windy City

CHICAGO – it's the city of mobsters, skyscrapers, Walt Disney, Michael Jordan and President Obama.

But did you know that it's also the place that brought you Wrigley's chewing gum, invented the chocolate brownie, and gave birth to Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer?

The Windy City is full of surprises. Chicago at Christmas time is a sight to behold. The United States' third biggest city becomes a city of lights – more than four million in fact.

The Lincoln Park Zoo is home to an impressive array of more than two million illuminations. And there are a further million glistening lights along the Magnificent Mile shopping strip. Think Paris – but bigger. Everything is bigger in America.

## SKATING

Meanwhile, you can go ice skating in Millennium Park or the adjacent Maggie Daley Park and feel the chilly winds blow in from Lake Michigan.

For a shopping trip, Chicago is every inch a rival to New York. The city created the concept of the great American department store with names such as Sears, Marshall Field's, Montgomery Ward, and Carson Pirie Scott.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was actually created for Montgomery Ward in the city by Robert Lewis May in 1939. The store had traditionally been buying and giving away colouring books for Christmas every year and it was decided that creating their own book would save money. It was a hit and a Christmas icon was born.

Today many of the trailblazing names of Chicago's booming department store industry have gone. The impressive Marshall Field's flagship building still exists but is now home to Macy's which controversially bought the firm a decade ago. Interestingly, a former stock boy at Marshall Field's by the name of Harry Selfridge started out in the Chicago store before moving to London and founding Selfridges.

The big chill – ice skating at the ribbon rink

Jazz hands – Green Mill Cocktail Lounge

Also at Christmas is the city's famous Christkindlmarket where Daley Plaza becomes an old German village filled with quaint shops and holiday treats. You can also embark on a trolley tour of the 'holiday lights' with the Chicago Trolley & Double Decker Company from outside the John Hancock Center. The tour lasts two-and-half hours and let's you explore the magic of Chicago's lights and sights.

But one of the best ways to get a feel for the city is by taking a holiday hike walking and food tour with Bobby's Bike Hike. The tour takes you to all the main sights in the city. It includes sampling local craft beer, a chocolate brownie at the Palmer House Hotel (where the brownie was invented), the Chicago-style hot dog, and deep dish pizza; sampling all four is an absolute must.

You could easily spend a day at the Museum of Science and Industry – the largest of its type in the Western Hemisphere – which is housed in the only remaining building from the 1893 World's Fair.

One of the best things to do is to take a boat ride through the city on an architecture cruise. But if you want to view the city from above, head to the Willis Tower, formerly known as the Sears Tower. At 110-storeys, 1,450ft (442.1m), it is America's second tallest building. You won't regret a night at The Second City comedy club. And no visit would be complete without going to the legendary Green Mill jazz club.

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Wolverhampton Chronicle Thursday, December 28, 2017

The new Nissan Micra is, quite simply, a revolution

# Micra's 1.0-litre engine provides outstanding urban performance

By James Parker

**The entry level 1.0-litre version of the all-new Nissan Micra is playing a key role in the hatchback's sales success.**

Customers are clearly impressed with its perfect balance of urban performance and low running costs.

The highly efficient 71PS three-cylinder unit has accounted for 20 per cent of orders across Europe since it went on sale earlier this year. However, that figure is forecast to rise even higher, to 23 per cent by next March – the end of FY17.

With approximately 46,000 new Micras sold, it means close to 10,000 customers are already enjoying the 1.0 engine's frugal performance. Naturally aspirated, the engine is linked to a five-speed manual transmission. This powertrain results in official Combined Cycle fuel economy of 4.6 litres/100km and CO2 emissions of 103g/km when running on 15 or 16-inch wheels.

The 1.0-litre 71PS is one of three refined engines which available on the all-new Micra. The others are a 0.9-litre 90PS three-cylinder turbo petrol and the 1.5-litre 90PS four-cylinder diesel.

The car has athletic and expressive design

Offering a 71PS engine makes the Micra more accessible than ever before. It extends Nissan's coverage within the European B-hatchback segment to 65% of all vehicles sold.

With more than half of all European B-hatchback vehicles sold in the 61-100PS category, the Micra is perfectly positioned to meet the needs of small car consumers.

The 1.0-litre 71PS engine is available on three grades, from entry level Visia to mid-range Acenta.

The new Nissan Micra is quite simply a revolution. It is a radical progression from the model it has replaced, and from the trio of highly successful superminis which date back to the Micra's debut in Europe in 1983.

Longer, wider and lower than ever before, the all-new Micra has been conceived, designed and engineered with European B-hatchback consumers' requirements at the top of the agenda.

And those who have already bought one are thrilled with it. Scores and comments posted via independent reviews organisation Reevoo have revealed an impressive average of 8.8 out of 10. A third of reviewers have awarded their Micra top marks – 10 out of 10.

Key to the all-new Micra's appeal is the car's athletic and expressive exterior design, which moves the Micra name plate in a daring new direction.

The contemporary look and premium feel continues inside, with a high-quality cabin that boasts two-tone soft-touch materials as standard across the range.

With a wheelbase that's 75mm longer than its predecessor, it features segment-leading interior space for front seat occupants.

The all-new Micra is also a technology leader, with a number of features which are not only new to the Micra but new to the segment. These include Intelligent Lane Intervention, a safety system which gently corrects the Micra back on to the right path should it be required. These advanced driver assistance technologies help the Micra to a four-star Euro NCAP rating (five stars in the UK).

Also unique to Micra is the BOSE Personal audio system, which features speakers built into the driver's head rest for an immersive 360° sound experience. The new Micra is available with a wide range of personalisation options, allowing owners to modify the exterior and interior with premium components in a variety of stylish and contemporary colours.

The new Micra is also a fantastic car to drive, with a dynamic performance that is the perfect balance between agility, excitement and the secure feeling that comes with confident and predictable handling.


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| 12/61 Hyundai Veloster 1.6 GDi | £6,999 |
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| 11/61 Vaux Astra 2.0 CDTi 165 E/F Elite | £6,999 |
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| 14/64 Vaux Adam 1.2 Jam | £6,999 |
| 14/64 Vaux Corsa 1.4 Des | £6,999 |
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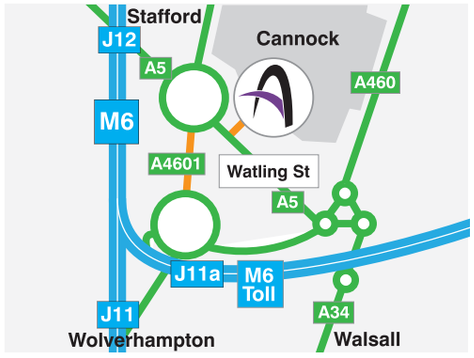

Wolverhampton Chronicle Thursday, December 28, 2017

The car is classically laid out as a sports car

# Grace, pace and elegance in 'four pot' worthy of heritage

By John Griffiths

**It's a sign of the times, I suppose, that the maker of an iconic sports car can launch a new model with an engine that's actually smaller than its predecessors.**

Fuel economy and environmental concerns have reached even this elevated sector of the new car market – and, of course, make it a little more affordable but no less eye-catching.

The car is Jaguar's F-Type, now available in coupe or cabriolet guise with a four-cylinder, two litre engine. That's right, a Jaguar, and the spiritual successor to the iconic E-Type, with only four cylinders.

But of course, back in the E-Type's heyday Jaguar didn't have the company's Wolverhampton engine plant with the technology and engineering prowess to produce such a relatively small engine with the ability to pump out 300PS (296bhp) which is more than enough to make the 'four pot' F-Type worthy of its heritage.

A 0 to 62mph sprint time of 5.7 seconds is sporting by any standards, and by coincidence it's a match for the 3.0 litre V6 F-Type, which has an extra 40PS.

The reason? Well by losing two cylinders you are also losing a little over 50kg of weight. It's weight from the right place too (the front) so it improves the car's front-rear balance to an almost perfect 50-50, bringing with it improvements in handling.

The two-litre F-Type starts from £50,745 for the coupe, £56,280 for the cabriolet.

Naturally there will always be those able and willing

More affordable but no less eye-catching

to pay double that for the sheer power and supercar-busting performance of the 5.0 litre, 575PS V8 flagship of the F-Type range. But the four-pot has its advantages, too: real world performance on today's busy, camera covered roads, and fuel economy and CO2 emissions on a par with the Mazda MX-5 – 39.2mpg and 161g/km.

The cabin is generously proportioned by two-seater standards, with big and shaped-for-comfort sports seats in leather and suede (both electrically adjustable), a colour touchscreen controller with premium sound system, satnav and climate control.

The downsize of choosing the cabriolet is that when the electrically folding roof is down boot space is 207 litres, compared to 310 for the coupe. Not of course that loss of boot space or an extra couple of thousand pounds has ever put anyone off the lure of wind in your hair motoring.

The car is classically laid out as a sports car – front engined and rear wheel drive – without the four wheel drive option available in the V6 and V8 line-up.

It's a configuration appreciated by purists, for its feel, driver feedback and agility. And for those daunted by powerful rear wheel drive cars it has dynamic stability control and an open differential with torque vectoring to keep you safe and on the right track.

Once out of town and on the open road, you can switch to dynamic mode which sharpens up the response of the steering, throttle and eight-speed automatic gearbox. There's a manual option too, with 'change up/down paddles behind the leather-clad steering wheel. There's a switchable 'active' sports exhaust too: you can enjoy a louder, more growly soundtrack inside the car as it's generated from the induction side of the engine.

A fuel-saving stop/start system, electric mirrors, rain sensing wipers and a deployable boot lid spoiler were also standard on the £59,085 R-Dynamic convertible version tested. The price included extras such as 19-inch alloy wheels, climate pack of heated seats, windscreen and steering wheel and front parking aid.

I must confess the idea of a four cylinder Jaguar sports car had me wondering, Until I'd driven it. The turbocharged engine's smooth,linear performance and impressive turn of speed is very much in the marque's tradition of grace, pace and elegance. Owners will lose little, but gain much in terms of running costs and environmental credentials.


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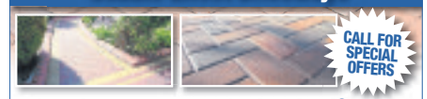

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**BUILDING** Plans: Prepared/submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

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## Guns & Dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**
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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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Please contact us on:
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# 5 Business & Farming

## Business Opportunities

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**business directory**

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# 6 Property

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Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

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It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

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# 7 Jobs

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# 8 Motoring

## Cars Over £1500

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

**RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE**
2008, 51,000 Miles,diesel £30 a year tax electric mirrors, air con, long MoT, central locking, pas, CD,
very good condition.
**£1,799.**
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**£1,799**
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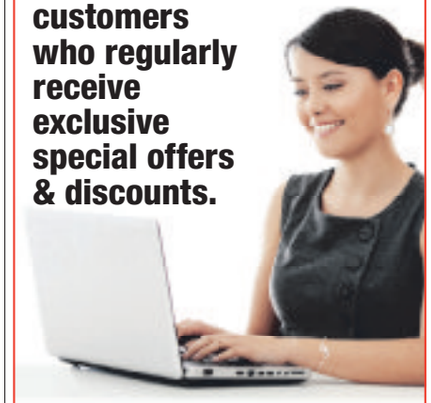

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# ClassifiedAds

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## 9 Local Information

## Public Notices

**LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES**

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**Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk**

*(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)*

## Public Notices

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991
VARIOUS ROADS IN THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE
(SURFACE DRESSING 2018)
DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council intend, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in those lengths of various roads as given in Schedule A/W3 below unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works; or unless the vehicle requires access to premises on the length of road or is being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

SCHEDULE A/W3

Four Ashes Road, Crateford Lane, **Brewood;** A460 Wolverhampton Road, **Cannock;** B4156 Wolverhampton Road, B4156 High Street, B4156 Low Street, B4156 Station Street, Saredon Road, Queen Street, Cross Street, Wesley Avenue, Zion Close, **Cheslyn Hay;** A458 Bridgnorth Road/Cote Lane, **Enville;** Catsbridge Lane, **Four Crosses;** A5 Watling Street, **Gailey to Weston under Lizard;** Saredon Lane, Great Saredon Road, Wood Lane, Windy Arbour Lane, Saredon Hall Road, **Great Saredon;** A34 Walsall Road, B4156 Station Road, Hilton Lane, Gorsey Lane, Darges Lane, Olde Hall Lane/Quinton Avenue, Sunset Close, Sunbeam Drive, Chestnut Drive, Hall Lane, Shanklin Close, Alwyn Close, Foxland Avenue, Park Lane, Paddock Lane, Brook Lane, Barn Croft, Ash Lane, Telford Avenue, Oxford Close, Cotswold Avenue, Johns Lane, Lea Lane, Wardles Lane, Field Lane, Lambourne Close, Kempton Drive, Newbury Close, Beaumont Close, Beaumont Road, Lingfield Drive, Lingfield Close, **Great Wyrley;** Church Lane, **Hatherton;** A41 Holyhead Road, A41 Newport Road, **Oaken;** Saredon Road, School Lane, Church Road, Old Cannock Road, Church Road, St Marys Close, **Shareshill;** A4601 Wolverhampton Road, Wood Lane, **Wedges Mills.**

**Diversion routes will be signed on site where required. For more information please visit www.roadworks.org or contact us on 0300 111 8000. The Order will come into operation on 22 January 2018, and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 28 September 2018.**

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months or until the surface dressing works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road, have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

**John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance and Change, 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH**

**Ref: 4096337; Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre; Tel: 0300 111 8000 http://roadworks.org**

**Date: 28 December 2017**

## 10 Personals

## Personal

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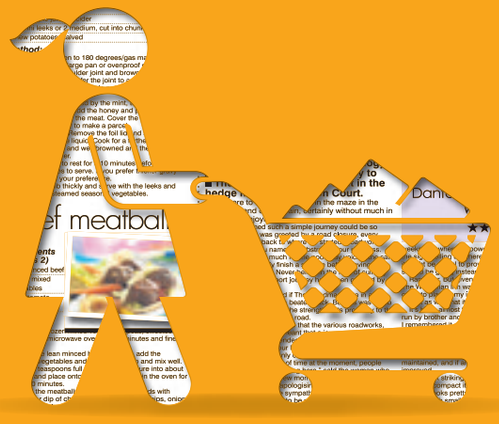

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SOURCE: The Newspaper Society - Consumer Catalyst 2014

To find out more about advertising in the Express & Star call 01902 31 31 31

**Express & Star**

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This high capacity air compressor has a specially designed high-speed pump which inflates all tyres, sports and camping equipment, inflatable mattresses, beach toys and other inflatables to the correct pressure automatically.

Simply connect to the 12V DC cigarette lighter in your car, pre-set the correct pressure on the back-lit LCD display and it will inflate in half the time of many standard compressors, automatically stopping when the correct pressure is reached.

Choose from PSI, BAR and KPA readings on the digital pressure gauge. It also features an integral LED torch with two light modes; a white light for illumination and a flashing red light for alerting other vehicles in a roadside emergency. The smart, compact design packs neatly into the car boot and is equipped with built-in storage space for the air hose, power lead and adaptors. Power lead measures three metres in length.

**D8399 12V Digital Air Compressor**

## Car Covers

**From only £37.99 plus £4.95 P&P**

These all-season covers will protect your car from moisture, snow, frost, corrosion, dust, dirt, scrapes and excessive exposure to the sun, all of which can damage your paintwork and cause costly repairs.

The covers are made from fully waterproof, twin-layer PVC/polypropylene and are secured with the elasticated hem and clips, there is also a removable strap that can be placed under the car to secure the cover in adverse weather.

Supplied with a storage bag and available in five sizes to fit small cars up to 4x4s.

Measurements are from bumper to bumper and maximum height. Includes wing mirror cover.

| Code | Product | Dimensions | Price | Was |
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| D9789 | Medium | 440 x 165 x 129cm | £39.99 | £59.99 |
| D9790 | Large | 460 x 178 x 129cm | £44.99 | £69.99 |
| D9791 | X-Large | 535 x 178 x 129cm | £48.99 | £79.99 |
| D9792 | XX-Large | 575 x 205 x 160cm | £59.99 | £99.99 |

## Charge and Start

**Only £12.99 plus £3.95 P&P**

The easier, cleaner and safer way to jump-start your car.

Flat batteries can really spoil your day, but with charge and start you can drive away in as little as five minutes. Simply insert one end of the charge and start into the 12V cigarette lighter socket of each car, then flick the switch.

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**D3455 Charge and Start**

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At last, thanks to the 2-in-1 telescopic hose brush set there is a safe and easy way to clean high windows and conservatories.

Simply attach the pole to your standard hosepipe, attach the window cleaning attachment, extend to the desired length and you can safely clean windows - all while keeping your feet firmly on the ground.

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Please note that at its longest extension the weight distribution will be affected and it may feel slightly heavier to operate.

**D6986 Telescopic Hose Brush Set**

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Quote 79506

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# HOW MUCH DO YOU REMEMBER? 60 TO TACKLE IN END OF YEAR QUIZ

# Test your 2017 sporting knowledge

Wolverhampton Chronicle Thursday, December 28, 2017

Who beat Andy Murray in the Australian Open?

Name this Sutton goalkeeper involved in 'Piegate'

Britain's Andrew Pozzi struck gold. At which event?

Which golfer beat Justin Rose to the Masters?

Who beat John Higgins for world glory?

Name this surprise French Open winner

## JANUARY

1) World number one Andy Murray suffered a surprise defeat against which player in the fourth round of the Australian Open?

2) Whom did Dutchman Michael van Gerwen beat in the final of the William Hill PDC World Darts Championship at Alexandra Palace?

3) Serena Williams won the Australian Open women's title for her 23rd grand slam singles title, an open era record, but which player did she face in the final?

4) Which Real Madrid superstar was named best men's player at the inaugural Best FIFA Football Awards?

5) Against which Premier League side did Wayne Rooney score his 250th goal for Manchester United to beat Sir Bobby Charlton's club record?

## FEBRUARY

6) England registered a 15th successive rugby union Test victory to set a new national record, with a 19-16 triumph over which Six Nations rivals at Twickenham?

7) Which team overcame a 25-point deficit to beat the Atlanta Falcons 34-28 after overtime at Super Bowl LI?

8) Name the Canada tennis player who was defaulted for striking a ball in anger that hit umpire Arnaud Gabas during the deciding rubber of the Davis Cup tie against Great Britain.

9) Name Sutton's 'roly-poly goalie' who resigned after eating a pie in the dugout during the televised FA Cup defeat to Arsenal, on which a bookmaker had offered odds for him to do so.

10) Who stepped down as England cricket captain after 59 Tests in charge? And who replaced him?

## MARCH

11) Who replaced Ian Drake as the new chief executive of British Cycling?

12) Which member of Celtic's 1967 European Cup winning Lisbon Lions squad died in March at the age of 73?

13) British athlete Andrew Pozzi won gold in which event on the opening day of the European Indoor Championships in Belgrade?

14) Barcelona overturned a first-leg 4-0 deficit to beat which team 6-1 at the Nou Camp and so secure a place in the quarter-finals of the Champions League?

15) Who won the Cheltenham Gold Cup?

## APRIL

16) Who was appointed captain for the British and Irish Lions' summer tour of New Zealand?

17) Who was thrown out of a Fed Cup tie in Constanta, Romania after hurling foul-mouthed abuse at the Great Britain team and journalists?

18) Which horse won the Grand National?

19) Which British boxer beat Wladimir Klitschko in 11 punishing rounds at Wembley to add the WBA and IBO heavyweight titles to his IBF belt?

20) Who beat England's Justin Rose in a play-off to win the Masters?

## MAY

21) Name the winners of the 2016/2017 Sky Bet Championship title.

22) Saracens beat which French club to win the European Champions Cup final at Murrayfield?

23) Who defeated John Higgins 18-15 to win the Betfred World Snooker Championship for a third time?

24) Manchester United defeated which Dutch club to win the Europa League final in Stockholm?

25) Which team beat Wasps 23-20 after extra time in the Aviva Premiership final at Twickenham?

## JUNE

26) Name the 40-1 outsider who won the Investec Derby at Epsom.

27) Which Latvian tennis player recorded a shock victory over title favourite Simona Halep to win the women's title at the French Open?

28) Which golfer won the US Open at Erin Hills.

29) Name the winners of the America's Cup in Bermuda.

30) Who beat Stan Wawrinka to win a 10th French Open tennis title success?

## JULY

31) Which team beat Surrey by four wickets to win the Royal London One-Day Cup at Lord's?

32) Which golfer secured victory in the Open Championship at Royal Birkdale?

33) Who did British number one Johanna Konta lose against in the semi-finals at Wimbledon?

34) Name the Great Britain swimmer who won gold in the 100m breaststroke at the World Championships in Budapest.

35) Who defeated Marin Cilic in the final to claim a record eighth men's singles title at Wimbledon?

## AUGUST

36) Hull beat which team to retain rugby league's Challenge Cup with a 18-14 win at Wembley?

37) Name the British quartet who won the men's 4x100 metres relay at the World Championships in London, where Usain Bolt pulled up injured on the anchor leg for Jamaica.

38) Which golfer won the US PGA Championship at Quail Hollow?

39) In which round did boxer Floyd Mayweather beat Mixed Martial Arts superstar Conor McGregor in their controversial bout in Las Vegas ?

40) Who defeated England to win the Women's Rugby World Cup final in Belfast?

## SEPTEMBER

41) Name the cities announced as hosts of the Olympic Games in 2024 and 2028 respectively.

42) Tour de France winner Chris Froome claimed victory in which prestigious cycle race to complete a rare double?

43) Which cricket team secured a first County Championship title win since 1992?

44) Who secured her first tennis grand slam title with a 6-3 6-0 over fellow American Madison Keys at the US Open?

45) Which English bowler took his Test wicket tally to 500 against West Indies at Lord's?

## OCTOBER

46) Which striker was the first player in English football to be retrospectively banned for diving.

47) Victory at the Mexican Grand Prix saw Lewis Hamilton clinch the Formula One drivers' championship. How many times has he now been world champion - three, four or five?

48) Which team did England beat 5-2 to win football's Under-17 World Cup final?

49) Who won gold for Britain in the men's pommel horse at the World Gymnastics Championships in Montreal?

50) Who beat Castleford 24-6 in the Betfred Super League Grand Final at Old Trafford?

## NOVEMBER

51) Which baseball team claimed the World Series for the first time after beating the Los Angeles Dodgers in a winner-takes-all game seven?

52) Name the English golfer who won the European Tour's Race to Dubai.

53) Why was boxer David Haye forced to postpone his rematch with Tony Bellew?

54) Which team did England beat to reach the Rugby League World Cup final?

55) Name the England cricketer who was handed his Ashes debut in the first Test at the Gabba.

## DECEMBER

56) Name the countries England will face in Group G at the 2018 World Cup following December's draw in Moscow.

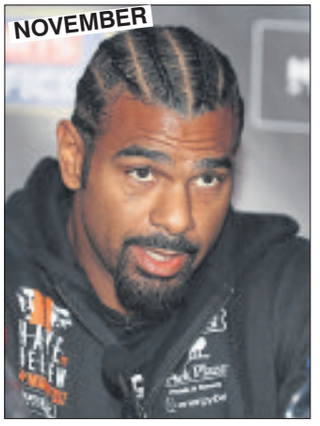
57) Which player equalled Steve Davis' record of six UK Championship snooker titles with victory over Shaun Murphy in York?

58) Cyclist Sir Bradley Wiggins made a return to competitive action at which event during December?

59) Name the team who defeated Seattle Sounders to win the MLS Cup.

60) What was reported to have been thrown towards Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho following the derby defeat to Premier League rivals Manchester City?

Lewis Hamilton. How many titles?




Why did David Haye pull out of a fight?

The winner of the Open at Royal Birkdale. But who?

Mayweather v McGregor. Which round was it stopped?

Chris Froome celebrated a double in which race?

Shaun Murphy. UK Championship runner-up. To whom?

## ANSWERS

**JANUARY**
**1)** Mirjana Zvarev; 2) Gary Anderson; 3) Venus Williams, her sister; 4) Cristiano Ronaldo; 5) Stoke

**FEBRUARY**
**6)** France; 7) New England Patriots; 8) Denis Shapovalov; 9) Wayne Shaw; 10) Alastair Cook stepped down, succeeded by Joe Root

**MARCH**
**11)** Julie Harrington; 12) Tommy Gemmell; 13) 60 metres hurdles; 14) Paris St Germain; 15) Sizing John

**APRIL**
**16)** Wales flanker Sam Warburton; 17) Romania Fed Cup team captain Ilie Nastase; 18) One For Arthur; 19) Anthony Joshua
**20)** Sergio Garcia

**MAY**
**21)** Newcastle; 22) Clermont Auvergne; 23) Mark Selby; 24) Ajax; 25) Exeter Chiefs

**JUNE**
**26)** Wings Of Eagles; 27) Jelena Ostapenko; 28) Brooks Koepka; 29) Emirates Team New Zealand; 0) Rafael Nadal

**JULY**
**31)** Nottinghamshire; 32) Jordan Spieth; 33) Venus Williams; 34) Adam Peaty; 35) Roger Federer

**AUGUST**
**36)** Salford; 37) Chijindu Ujah, Adam Gemili, Danny Talbot, Nethaneel Mitchell-Blake; 38) Justin Thomas; 39) 10th round; 40) New Zealand

**SEPTEMBER**
**41)** Paris (2024) and Los Angeles (2028); 42) La Vuelta; 43) Essex; 44) Sloane Stephens; 45) James Anderson

**OCTOBER**
**46)** Shaun Miller (Carlisle); 47) Four; 48) Spain; 49) Max Whitlock; 50) Leeds

**NOVEMBER**
**51)** The Houston Astros; 52) Tommy Fleetwood; 53) Haye suffered a biceps tear while on stairs during training; 54) Tonga; 55) Jake Ball

**DECEMBER**
**56)** Belgium, Tunisia and Panama; 57) Ronnie O'Sullivan; 58) British Rowing Indoor Championships; 59) Toronto FC; 60) Milk and water

Referee Bill Turley flanked by his assistants Harry Worrall and Terry Connolly

The ref is resplendent in white boots

Harry Worrall runs the line at age of 79

Terry Connolly, aged 72, keeps up with play

Match referee Bill Turley gives the red card to age

The cameras are rolling as the match officials are filmed

# No signs of flagging from the men in black

**THERE is no substitute for experience, so the old adage goes. And that was certainly the case when the officials trotted out for a recent clash in the Wolverhampton Sunday League.**

The combined age of the men in black who took charge of the top-flight showdown between Penn Tandoori Sundats and AFC Jacks totalled 219 years.

Man in the middle Bill Turley clocked in at the tender age of 68 while his flag waving assistants, Terry Connolly and Harry Worrall, are 72 and 79 respectively. And the occasion is set to gain national attention thanks to the presence of the Sky TV cameras.

Sky presenter Johnny Phillips, a columnist with The Chronicle's sister publication The Express & Star, was in attendance at Wolverhampton Casuals' Brinsford Lane having heard about the trio's appointment when he was guest speaker at a recent Wolverhampton Referees Association meeting.

## Popular

The three wise men will be brought to the screen over the festive period when they are featured on the popular Soccer Saturday show hosted by Jeff Stelling.

And with the cameras rolling, the banter was soon flowing between the trio and Wolverhampton Referees Association chairman Phil Reade, the man responsible for appointing officials to Wolverhampton Sunday League games.

"Bill reckons the players say he looks like Gerry Francis, with his hair like that. I reckon it's more Peter Stringfellow!" quipped Phil.

"Bill is a larger than life character and Harry is really well known having been a referee for over 50 years, while Terry is probably the quieter one.

"All three of them are well respected around the local leagues and they enjoy a chat and a bit of banter with the players.

"It's great that they are getting some recognition for what they do and it's also good publicity for the league and the refs' association.

"We are the biggest association in the country and we have quite a number of refs who are aged 50 or above. This was a big game but I don't look at ages when I make the appointments. I just look at whether they can handle the game.

"All three of them are experienced refs who know how to handle players. And they did a good job, just don't remind me about Bill's white boots!"

The white boots will see plenty of action this season with Bill likely to clock up a century of games during the course of the campaign.

And the Pendeford-based former publican has no plans to call time on his refereeing days anytime soon.

"Since I retired and I am free in the week, my phone never stops ringing," said Bill, who was amateur with Wolves and whose son, Billy, played professionally as a goalkeeper for Northampton Town, Oxford and Rushden & Diamonds.

"I referee in the Wolverhampton Sunday, the Midland Junior Premier on Saturdays, the Midland Junior Floodlit League and also school and college games.

"Over the course of the season I will do over 100 games. I love it. I'm not a young man but I am fit for my age. I'm an ex semi-pro and I know the game.

"I have been refereeing for 20 years and I really enjoy it. It gets me out and it still gives me that buzz. I love the banter because that's the sort of player I was. I talk to players, I'm a communicator.

As for the white boots....

"The story behind the white boots is that they were my son's," added Bill. "He used to give me his boots – I must have 15 pairs still to wear. "There is nothing in the rules to say you can't wear white boots. I'm a colourful character. I'm a bouncy sort of bloke and if my boots are the only talking point then I have done a good job."

Footwear seemed to be a bit of theme on the morning of the game with Harry having splashed out on a new pair. And, like Bill, he will clock up fair few miles in them as he enters his 51st year as a referee.

"I still do the occasional senior game, but it's mainly youth games for me," says Harry, who lives in East Park. "And I will carry on as long as the old knees keep up. I have a tablet each morning and put some muscle rub and knee supports on, and that does the trick.

"I felt great at the end of the game on Sunday and I still enjoy it. I lost my wife 16 years ago and football is what keeps me going. I love my football.

"The game is not like it used to be. There is a lack of respect towards referees these days. You get the manager on the touchline having a go and that filters through to the players. You have to have a word with them but I haven't got a card out for ages. I prefer to talk to players, it's all about man management. Anyone can get a card out."

## Stopped

Terry, 72, is the least experienced of the trio having only decided to pick up a whistle 10 years ago.

But he still boasts plenty of footballing nous having run various youth teams from Bushbury youth club for over 40 years.

"I have been refereeing for about 10 years," he said.

"I used to run football and then stopped to raise a family. But I came back to the sport 10 years ago wanting to be a referee,

"Similar to Harry, I lost my wife and football is a big part of my life and keeps me active.

"I usually do three or four games a weekend and also referee five-a-side at Codsall School on a Monday.

"I do adults and juniors, Wolverhampton Sunday League, Beacon League and the Midland Junior League. I enjoy it so much, that's why I do some many games.

"As long as my legs keep carrying me about I will carry on. I really do sleep well on a Sunday and Monday after all the games. But by the next weekend I am fine to go again."

SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

*"I have been refereeing for 20 years and I really enjoy it. It gets me out and it still gives me that buzz."*

# Sport

Well, what do you know? Try our 2017 sports quiz

Page 38

## Coady: We're not thinking about record

HAVING amassed a points total of 54 at the halfway point in the season, Wolves' captain Conor Coady say they are not thinking about the possibility of becoming Championship record breakers.

Saturday's 1-0 win over Ipswich Town saw the leaders stretch their advantage over second-placed Cardiff to seven points.

The victory meant Nuno Espirito Santo's men are on course to break Reading's record second tier points haul of 106, set during the 2005/06 season.

But speaking ahead of Boxing Day's trip to Millwall, Coady insisted the focus at Molineux remains very much on the short-term.

"The points record is a massive one and no-one at the club is thinking about that at the minute," he said. "We had a conversation with the manager in the week and he said it's not about points, it's not about thinking where we can get to, it's about winning football matches and that will take us to where we want to go.

"No-one in the dressing room is talking about points, or how many games we have to win. It's about winning every single game possible."

Nine of the last 10 teams to top the Championship at Christmas went on to gain promotion, the only exception being Watford in 2008.

But Coady replied: "There you go, it is not 10 out of 10 is it? We just want to keep on going, keep listening to the manager, keep improving and hopefully keep on winning."

## Gavin's frank about chances as world title fight looms

BIRMINGHAM boxing favourite Frankie Gavin has vowed there will be no more 'Fun Time Frankie' as he prepares for his biggest ever challenge and a world title fight.

The Hall Green pugilist fights for the World Welterweight championship in his home city on February 23. The former English World champion, who brought Commonwealth Gold to the Second City in 2006, will face African Bethuel Ushona in front of a packed Genting Arena.

Gavin, aged 32, said: "That's it, no more Fun Time Frankie. This is my last real big chance at a world title shot – and I'm not about to blow it."

Wolverhampton's unbeaten bantamweight Kyle Williams appears, as well as Gavin's fellow Brummie, Sean Davis, the former WBC International Super Bantamweight champion, Redditch's Andrew 'D'Animal' Robinson, a former Midlands Area champion, newly-crowned IBO Continental Welterweight champion Craig Morris and Tipton light heavyweight Ricky Summers.

Tickets are on sale via theticketfactory.com

## Edwards books in to sign on at Wolves

Edwards with Katie and Carol Brigstock

EX-WOLVES man Dave Edwards made a welcome return to Molineux to meet fans and sign copies of his book.

The midfielder, who left for Reading in August, spent almost 10 years with Wolves.

His book 'Dave Edwards – Living My Dream' has just been released and the Welsh international midfielder took time out to meet supporters at the Molineux Megastore.

Edwards has put the book together with Paul Berry, Wolves' head of media. It covers the whole of the 31-year-old's career and also focuses on Wales' run to the Euro 2016 semi-finals in France.

Edwards lifts the lid on his near-decade at Molineux, giving the inside track on two promotions, two relegations and three years in the Premier League. He gives a behind-the-scenes take on the day Mick McCarthy was sacked as Wolves boss and how the midfielder was approaching depression after a host of injury problems.

All of Edwards' profits from the book will go towards his Little Rascals Foundation.

# LEADERS HIT THE MILL-WALL

**FOUR goals, loads of chances, endless tackles, numerous bookings, a touchline barney and a penalty appeal.**

Wolves may not have got the result they came to London for but this was great Boxing Day fare at a rambunctious New Den, home of Millwall.

They conceded their first goal for 389 minutes and could have let in a couple more.

The Lions lived up to their name and wimpering Wolves struggled to cope, particularly in the first half, but still regularly created chances and a draw was a fair result.

Ruben Neves played some sublime passes, Helder Costa looked back to his old self and Matt Doherty had his best game for weeks.

It all means Nuno's team keep up their unbeaten record, which stretches back 10 matches, although there will be a concern ahead of Bristol City away on Saturday with Ivan Cavaleiro and Willy Boly having gone off injured.

The Ashton Gate trip looms large – if Wolves can get through that unscathed things will look very pretty indeed. The snarling hosts were feral from the off, chopping and cutting away at Wolves' midfield with Saville and Shaun Williams launching into challenges.

Millwall looked intent on getting an early goal, breaking forward in big numbers in the opening minutes and – after Matt Doherty had forced a good save from Jordan Archer – they got their reward when Wallace broke at searing pace and fed Lee Gregory who sidefooted past Ruddy.

At one point Romain Saiss tried to move Wolves on in midfield and was instantly surrounded by four opposition players, while there was a brief melee of three crunching tackles in five seconds from the hosts.

It looked unlikely that Millwall could keep up the tempo and indeed Wolves did start to get their passing game going, with Doherty and Barry Douglas regularly making overlaps on the flanks to help prise Millwall open. Before then Wolves were lucky not to be 2-0 down with Aiden O'Brien volleying wide from six yards.

Romain Saiss celebrates his goal, a scorcher of a shot which he scored early in the second half

But thereafter Nuno's team started to look themselves. Helder Costa curled a couple of decent efforts wide before shooting too close to Archer after being played in by a gorgeous Ruben Neves pass – not the first he'd offered in the half. The hosts still threatened at the other end and on 45 minutes defender Jake Cooper headed a corner into the side netting. It was another let off – and within seconds Wolves took full advantage when Costa danced his way to the byline and crossed low for Diogo Jota to slam home.

Cavalaleiro remained down injured and Leo Bonatini came on for him in the second half.

Saiss' third goal of his Wolves career was by far his best – a 25-yard belter that was too good for a flailing Archer – after great work from Costa. That was the cue for 10 minutes of overdue control from Wolves who finally slowed down the pace of the game.

They then suffered their second injury blow of the match when Boly was withdrawn with what looked like a tight hamstring. Four minutes after his withdrawal Millwall were level – a corner wasn't cleared and Cooper, who had threatened twice from set pieces, nodded home.

## Douglas is happy with 'ugly' wins

BARRY Douglas says Wolves have proved they can 'win dirty' – and had no concerns over their Christmas schedule.

Nuno Espirito Santo's team had earned seven points from three games, without conceding a goal, before the festive programme.

And Douglas said the squad were relishing their run of four games in 11 days. After Saturday's home clash with Ipswich, Wolves were at Millwall on Boxing Day, travel to Bristol City on Saturday and on Tuesday host Brentford.

Douglas said: "It's nothing new, we're just going to keep doing what we've been doing, preparing right. We know the games are going to come thick and fast.

"It's going to be tough but it's something we're all relishing and looking forward to. That's why we're our training and sacrificing every day, it's for these moments.

"It's a bit hectic but it's what we get paid to do at the end of the day and it's something we enjoy doing. It doesn't matter when the games are, we're always going to be ready."

Nuno's team were four points clear of Cardiff at the top of the Championship going into the festive period. And Douglas says that keeping winning is all that counts, no matter how Wolves do it.

"I think the last few games you look at the way we've won – it's not been lovely two-touch football as we had been doing before," he said. "We can grind out a win dirty and we're going to need to sometimes.

## Perry wins award in Rachael's honour

AUSTRALIA'S Ellyse Perry has won the ICC's inaugural Rachael Heyhoe Flint award after being named women's cricketer of the year.

The 27-year-old all-rounder won the ICC's inaugural Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award, renamed in memory of Wolverhampton's former England captain, who died in January.

Perry scored an unbeaten 213 during the women's Ashes Test in November as Australia retained the trophy in their drawn series Down Under.

Staffordshire's England all-rounder Danni Wyatt was named as part of the T20 team of the year.

★★★

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